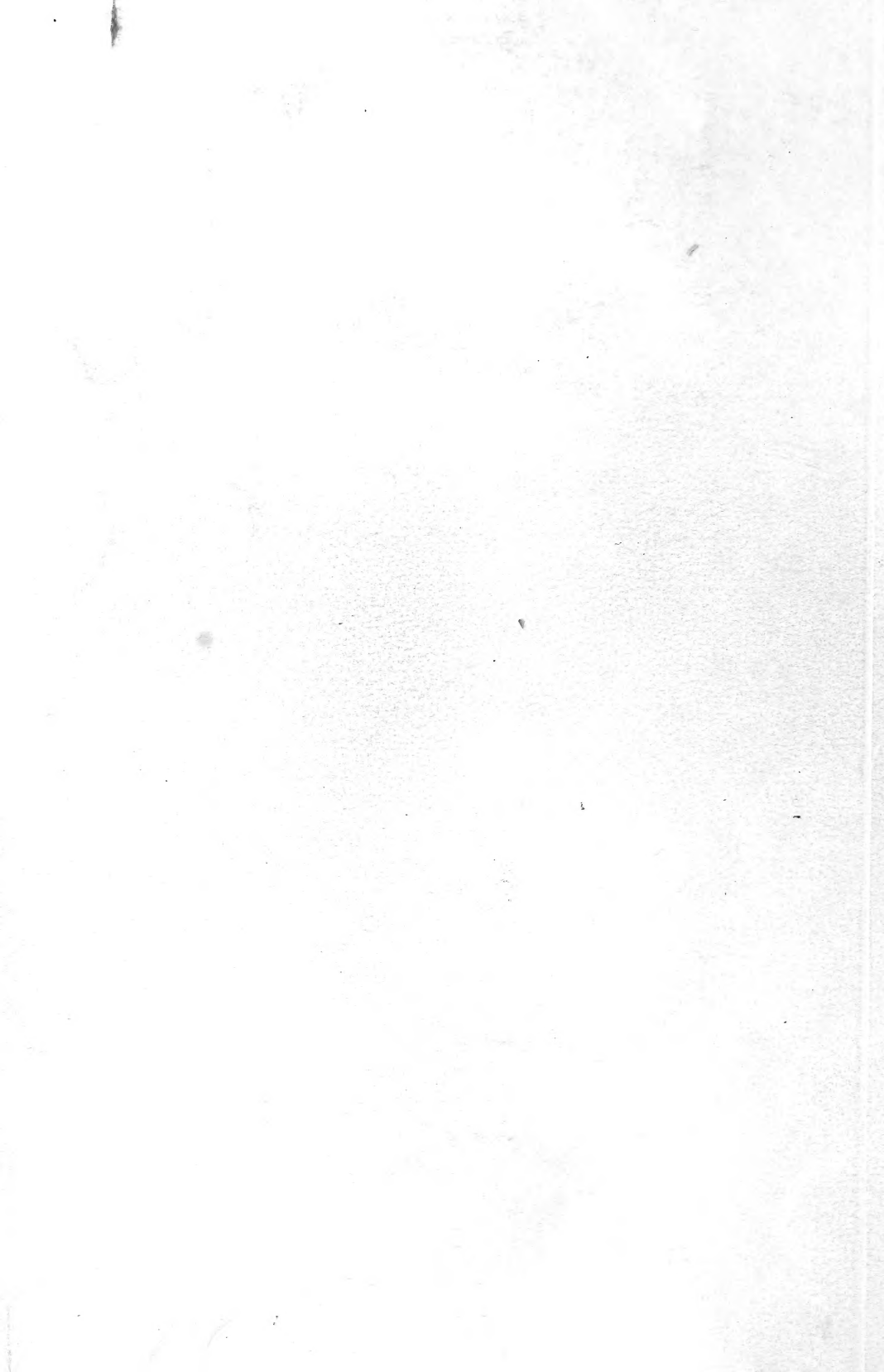


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



62.71

James Vick, Rochester, N.Y.



National Agricultural Library
 RECEIVED
 AUG 25 1965
 U. S. Department of Agriculture

We present the SECOND NUMBER of the FLORAL GUIDE to our readers thus early because we design it to reach subscribers before the planting season, or at least before its end, for many will like to avail themselves of the information it contains at once. The artisan may make a score of experiments in a year or a month, but the florist, and the gardener have but one opportunity in a year, and but few in a lifetime. We have, therefore, no time to lose. What we do to beautify and better the world must be done quickly.

Our readers, of course, have had an opportunity to become acquainted with our new plans, and, so far as we have learned, almost everyone is pleased with the change. Our publications were never before so popular with the people and the press. Our FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDEN, which we furnish all who wish at cost, is in such great demand that we have to print edition after edition, and there seems to be no end to the demand, and no rest for the presses. And this is not strange, for we give an elegant book, of more than a hundred large pages, hundreds of wood-cuts, with four colored plates; descriptions of almost all the Flowers and Vegetables worthy of culture in this country, and minute directions for culture—all for *thirty-five cents* in paper covers; and *sixty-five cents* bound in elegant cloth and gilt. Few handsomer books have been published in the world, and the price is almost nothing. One dollar and fifty cents or two dollars would be the usual price of such a book.

The GARDEN being thus a standard work, enables us to devote the pages of our FLORAL GUIDE, which is published quarterly, to descriptions of new Flowers and Vegetables, answers to numerous correspondents, and such other matters as we believe will be of interest to our hundreds of thousands of readers. We design to make it both entertaining and useful. If we can materially aid in creating a true, earnest, love of flowers, and thus make the people happier and better, our object will be gained. To bring it within the means of all, we charge only twenty-five cents a year, barely enough to cover the cost of the paper; and to our customers who trade with us to the amount of one dollar, or more, we send it free; and prepay postage on all our works.

In addition to the above, we publish a PRICED CATALOGUE, containing a full list of our Flowers and Vegetables, and very brief descriptions, with price attached, which we send free to all who desire it. Thus, it will be seen, we are prepared to meet the wants and circumstances of all. None so poor, but they can obtain at least one of our works. Will those who love flowers

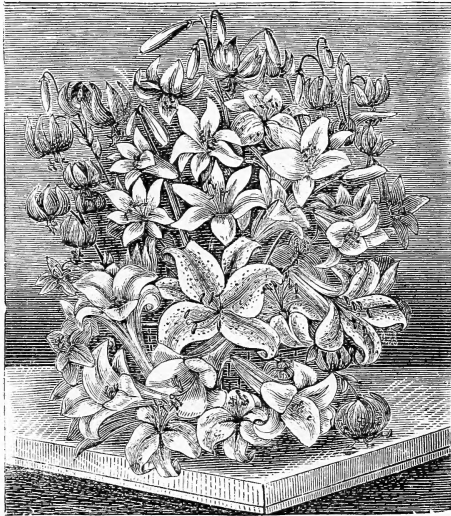


and gardening, and know how good it is, please endeavor to interest their neighbors, even if to do so it is necessary to make a little sacrifice? Show our books, even loan them, and if they are injured or lost in this good work we will send you others for nothing. Perhaps it may be necessary to write a letter and order books for your neighbors. It will be a small work, and may result in great good. Perhaps you would never have loved flowers if some one had not taken an interest in your happiness. You may owe a good turn, which you can now repay.

In addition to the works named we publish annually, a beautiful FLORAL CHROMO, composed of from twenty to thirty of our best flowers, drawn and colored from nature, and of natural size, and tastefully arranged. These are not cheap daubs, as all who receive them know, but works of real merit, and at least equal to any Floral Chromos in the world. We have already published

eight, and they will be found described and illustrated on the second and third pages of the covers of the FLORAL GUIDE and the FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDEN. They are of good size, nearly all 19 by 24 inches.

Our new Chromo for this year is composed entirely of LILIES, and embraces all the hardy varieties we are acquainted with worthy of cultivation in this country, including the new kinds from California—Humboldtii or Bloomerianum, Excelsum, Canadense, Chalcedonicum, Washingtonianum, Rubrum, Candidum, Thunbergianum Citrinum Thunbergianum Grand. Atrosanguineum, Parvum, Auratum, Thunbergianum Atrosanguineum Fulgens, Brownii, Takesima, Longiflorum, Pardalinum, Præcox, Punctatum. This makes nineteen varieties, a collection to which we know of nothing we would at present like to add. Those who have this Chromo will possess, in one group, correct portraits of all the Lilies of the world—at least all that we are acquainted with of merit for American cultivators. True, there are



OUR CENTENNIAL LILY CHROMO.

many more names given in some of the Catalogues, but the Lily Catalogues of many Florists, and especially European lists, are exceedingly deceptive. Not less than four or five sorts are made of the Auratum, on account of some little difference in the coloring. On this subject we have a long and interesting article from Dr. GARNER, of Lucknow, Canada, who has imported Lilies from Europe for many years, and has been subjected to great loss and disappointment by this unnecessary and unreasonable increase of names. We shall try to give the substance of the article in our next number.

OUR CENTENNIAL CHROMO ALMOST FOR NOTHING.

We have long thought of doing something pleasant for our friends this Centennial year, so concluded to make a specialty of this Chromo, which we have gotten up at great expense, and certainly with a good deal of labor, and which we will furnish to all who desire, at a merely nominal price—even below our usual figures—FIFTY CENTS on paper, sized and varnished; ONE DOLLAR AND TWENTY-FIVE CENTS on cloth and stretcher, just like an oil painting. On both of these we pay the postage or express charges. TWO DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS nicely framed in Black Walnut and gilt. No charge for boxing framed Chromos, but freight to be paid by those who order. At most places the frame *alone* would cost more than we ask for picture and frame complete. We do not urge our friends to get this Chromo, but we do say they have a chance now to obtain a good picture almost for nothing. Prices of other Chromos not affected by the offer, as we have secured an extra quantity of this one for the purpose.



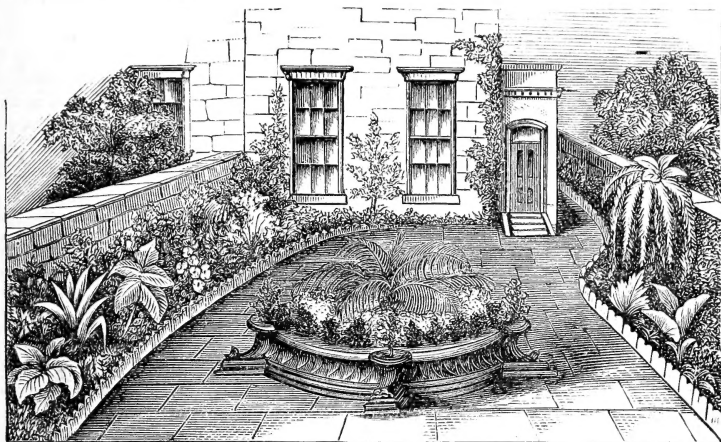


PLEASANT HOMES.

MR. VICK:—I have looked among the back numbers of your *FLORAL GUIDE* for a picture of a city garden, and instructions for making the most of a little room. The number to which I refer was published two or three years ago, and, I think, represented a prettily-designed little garden in Europe. If you have the number on hand would you be kind enough to forward it to me; or, if you can tell me of any better way to improve a city garden twenty-five and one-half feet wide by, say, fifty long, I should be glad of directions.—MISS L. T. HALL, *Portland, Conn.*

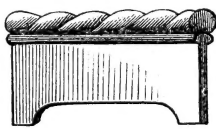
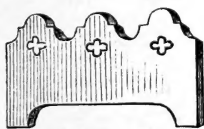
We are unable to furnish our correspondent with the number desired, as not a copy is left, but we think those who have long been our readers will excuse us for reproducing a small portion of this article in the present number, to which we have added other suggestions and new illustrations.

Few things pleased us more when in Europe than the skill exhibited in giving an air of rural taste to small city lots, many of them so very small that few Americans would be willing to attempt ornamental gardening on so diminutive a scale. And yet, if we can make a parlor or



sitting-room beautiful in winter with a few plants, why can we not make a small paradise of a little twenty-foot-square "front yard." Many of the yards we refer to were not more than twenty feet in width, and yet remarkable as specimens of taste. Some of these little gardens were attached to houses in rows; others belonged to what are known as semi-detached cottages—that is, two only joined together.

We give a specimen of one of these little front gardens, or, as they are sometimes called, entrance courts. The lots are sometimes so narrow that the raised bed is made several feet from the center to allow of free passage on one side. The English people seem to love seclusion, and so the front yard is usually bounded by a wall on every side, as we have, in a measure, shown in the engraving, and would be fearfully unsightly but for the fact that these walls are ornamented, and sometimes concealed with climbers and other beautiful plants. The ornamental border that surrounds the central bed is usually rich, and made to resemble stone. The border for the beds on the sides is generally common burnt clay tiles, of neat designs, and quite reasonable in price—about twelve cents a foot. The small engravings show two very good patterns. Sometimes a bold



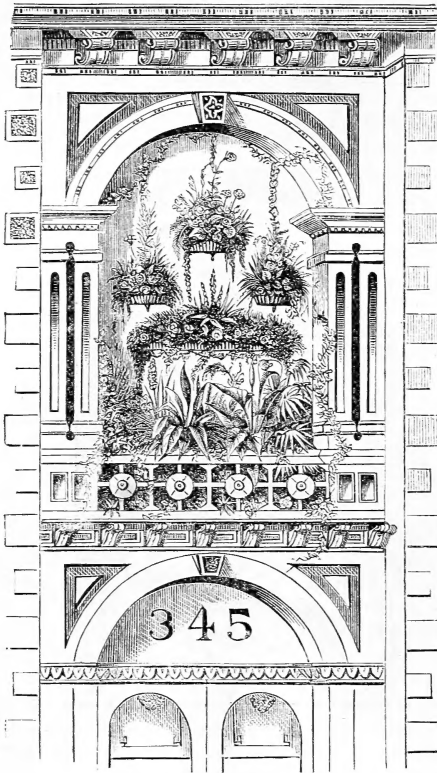
EDGING TILES.

vase is used for the center; and we have seen a little rockery occupy the place, but it is not the place for a rockery. The space not occupied by beds is covered with flagging or gravel.

Those who have noticed the advance of rural taste in America during the past thirty years have seen developments unequalled in any country, in any age of the world. Beautiful orchards and lawns, and gardens, and tasteful houses abound, where, a few years ago, we saw the crooked



rail fence, the trees and stumps and small log cabins. We scarcely pass through a village in any part of the country, but we see some place so nicely arranged, so beautiful, and possessing some feature so entirely new, that we are tempted to take out our pencil and make a sketch on the spot.



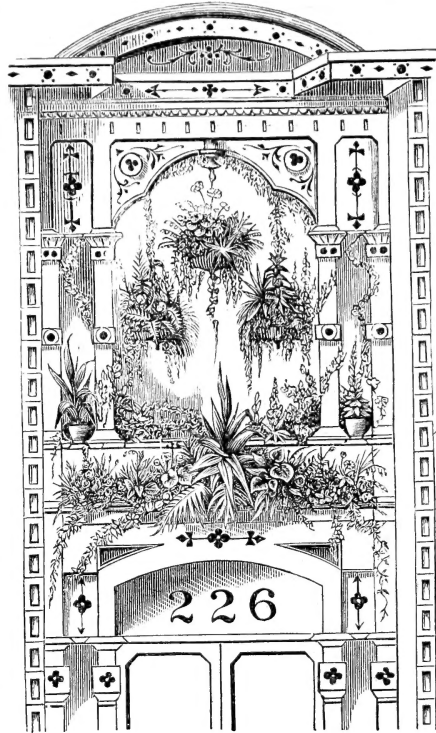
We have to thank the architects in Rochester for planning houses with shady recesses over the front doors, which afford opportunity for the most elegant adornment, and which our people have not been slow to improve. We were so pleased with this feature, that we had drawings taken of two—the first owned and cared for by Mrs. JAMES McDONELL, and the other by Mrs. WILLIAM OOTHOUT. Both houses are on one of our finest roadways, East Avenue, and from early summer until autumn, these little recesses presented an exhibition of rural beauty, that gave more pleasure to their owners and to the thousands who passed by, than would tens of thousands of dollars expended in architectural display. With plenty of water, plants can be kept in such situations through the summer in perfect health.

In the selection of plants for such places more regard must be had to elegant foliage than beautiful flowers; but it is absolutely necessary to obtain those that will keep in perfection a long time, whether chosen for foliage or flowers. Plants that rapidly attain their best estate, ripen and pass away, may be interesting and useful in appropriate places, and generally furnish flowers abundantly for cutting, but should not be planted in vases or baskets, nor on the lawn, where a good show must be kept up the whole season.

“How shall I arrange my little front yard, of less than thirty feet square, to make it look the best?” writes a new correspondent. Having given our friend from Connecticut the English plan desired, we will now give a simple plan of our own, and we would like to see them both made, side by side. It is not well to have every little garden an exact copy of its neighbor, for there is beauty in diversity. In gardening, it is best not to attempt more than we can accomplish, but to do everything in the best possible manner. In so small a space the plan should be simple. Much has been written against straight walks, and in consequence there has, for some years, been a mania for curved paths, and many little front yards have been sadly disfigured by a desperate attempt to make a graceful curve in a little walk leading from the street to the front door, and perhaps not more than twenty feet in length. All such walks should be straight, and the attempt to make them otherwise is ridiculous. With a good, neat and broad walk to the front door; from this a narrower one leading to the rear of the house, you have all the walks necessary, and all that will look well. In a lot only thirty feet in width, the walk leading to the front door will be, of course, only a few feet from one side of the lot, leaving space for a little unbroken lawn about twenty by thirty feet, if the house should stand thirty feet from the street. The space on the other side of the walk will be only a narrow border. Have all the space not used for the walk graded nicely, and covered with grass, either by sodding or sowing seed. Seed must be sown in early fall or early spring, and sodding should be done at the same seasons. Keep the grass in perfect order by frequent cutting, and it will look well at all times, except during severe drouths in the middle of summer. If it can have a soaking of water once or twice a week



it will be as green as emerald in the Northern States from April to November, and in some places nearly or quite the whole year. Kentucky Blue Grass, or Lawn Grass seed, which is about the same, is the best seed to sow. Now we have the foundation of all ornamental gardening, a good walk and a well-kept lawn, and there is little more to do—only just a little ornamenting or gilding. This must be done sparingly. Profuse ornamentation outrages all good taste, so we will make a bed in the middle of the lawn, of some simple form, a circle or an oval. This would look well filled with *Caladiums* and *Cannas*. If these should be too expensive, ten cents worth of striped and blotched *Petunia* seed would give plants enough for two such beds, and would be exceedingly showy, and endure all summer. Thanks to a kind Providence, beauty is cheap—almost, and often entirely, without money or price. A few shrubs around the edges of the little lawn, perhaps to screen the fence or any other object, some climber over the front door, like the *Astrolochias*, and a climbing rose at or near the corner of the house farthest from the front door, and you have done about all that can be done to beautify so small a space. Instead of the flower bed in the center of the lawn it would not be a bad plan to substitute a fine, well-filled vase, with a small bed of flowers near each corner, or a few half-moon shaped beds near the fences.



Garden work needs a large stock of patience, and we are pleased that it is so; it is an excellent discipline for an irritable temper. Things will not all prove satisfactory the first season; but we see reason to hope for better things next year, and we have enough success to give us faith in the future. What a grand school for the culture of patience, faith and hope! Then, some of our work proves to be in excellent taste, while a portion we dislike and resolve to change and improve another year. Thus, while we improve our gardens we improve ourselves, and while they get handsomer we get, at least, better. We propose no model, therefore, for any garden, and only give a few suggestions to set people thinking and working—just the key-note to get the tune properly started.

WORMS IN FERNERIES AND WARDIAN CASES.—In a late number a correspondent desired a remedy for worms that sometimes infest Wardian Cases and Ferneries. A lady of Trenton, N. J., kindly furnishes us with the following notes from experience:—"I had a Wardian Case last winter, and by accident discovered what seems an effectual remedy. A small round glass dish was sunk in the earth, even with the edge, and filled with water to increase moisture. In a day or so I found in the water about a dozen small, white worms, two earwigs, and one black hard-shell bug, together with some smaller insects, all drowned. I kept the dish there all winter, and had no further trouble with worms; but the snails did some damage to my choicest plants. We took a candle and searched at night, and found *His Snailship*. My case was an inexpensive one comparatively, but a decided success. If my experience is new to any, I shall be glad for them to try it. My seeds came up nicely, and I was well repaid for all my gardening this summer."

OUR PUBLICATIONS THIS YEAR.—Everybody praises them. We could not publish all the nice things our friends have written us about them, in six numbers of the *FLORAL GUIDE*.



USEFUL FACTS AND PLEASANT GOSSIP.

APHIS AT THE ROOTS.

JAMES VICK:—Having been a steady customer of yours for the last eight or ten years, I feel that I cannot refrain from writing you a few lines to express my sincere thanks for the excellent quality of the seeds and bulbs with which I have been furnished, and also for your very kind and generous treatment. Notwithstanding that we sometimes have unfavorable seasons, yet I hardly ever fail of having a fine display of flowers from early in the season until quite late in the fall, even after Jack Frost has come to make his unwelcome visits to our gardens and lawns. But, for the last two or three years, I have experienced no little difficulty in growing some kinds of flowers on account of the depredations committed on the roots by the Aphis. The Asters seem to suffer most from their depredations, but last year they also attacked the Ten-Weeks Stock, Double Zinnia, Sanvitalia, Verbena, &c. Last season, as soon as I discovered that some of my plants were infested by these insects, I went to work and watered them with a decoction of strong Tobacco water, but saw no benefit from the use of it. I next tried strong lime water, but with no better results than before. I then removed the soil carefully from round the plants, and watered them with a strong solution of Paris Green, but with no better results than with the two previous applications. I thought for a time that I should lose nearly all my plants; but I managed to save a portion of them. If you, or any of your numerous readers, know of any preventive, or of any cure, whereby these troublesome insects can be got rid of, and will give the desired information, through your Catalogue, it will be a favor conferred not on me alone, but I presume on many others of your customers.—T. K., *Jordan, Minn.*

Once, on a rented piece of ground, and somewhat of a stiff, clay soil, we noticed the Aster plants beginning to droop, and for some time failed to learn the cause. At last, on pulling up several, we found the roots covered with a silvery-white Aphis. One-half of the plants in the patch were destroyed. Every remedy tried seemed entirely in vain. It was the last time we planted that piece of ground, and though ten years ago, we have not seen this Aphis since, so we are quite unprepared with a remedy. We hope some of our correspondents can give the needed information, for this underground Aphis must be fearfully destructive where numerous.

SUCCESS WITH HOUSE PLANTS.

A gentleman of Baltimore, Maryland, has some friends who cannot succeed with plants in the house during the winter. If we have labored earnestly in any special department of floriculture, it has been in our efforts to prevent people from killing their plants with heat, dust and bad air. In almost every number of the GUIDE we have begged for cleanliness, fresh air, a moderate temperature, and a judicious use of water. We have thought, too, that while doing so much for the life of the plants we were also incidentally and quietly doing something for the health of their owners. An atmosphere and temperature that will keep most of our common house plants in a healthy, vigorous state will do about the same for the people. Few house-plants will endure our overheated, dusty living rooms, but in a bay window, screened somewhat from its intense heat and dryness, or in an adjoining room, like a library, that only obtains borrowed heat from a living room, or in a parlor kept pretty cool most of the time, or in an upper hall, they will thrive charmingly with a little care and occasional sprinkling of the foliage. Our Baltimore friend writes as follows of his experience:

MR. VICK:—I have been a reader of your GUIDE for some time, and I have advised friends to do the same who complain of ill luck with their flowers for blooming in the house. I tell them I had the same trouble until I read your GUIDE. Now I can grow almost anything. I have Geraniums and other flowers in full bloom in my third story room, with no heat except what ascends from the other parts of the house. I have a Hermosa rose in full bloom that bloomed in the yard last summer, but when it was in the yard it was in a shady place, and did not flower freely. I take the cleanings from the bird cages, dissolve it in tepid water, and water them once a week. I use a fine brush to brush the bugs off, especially from the new wood, and am well paid for my trouble. Every one that passes stops to look at them. I have some Tuberose; I planted the bulbs last June, in the yard, and they only grew about five inches by the middle of September. I took them up, put them in pots, put them in the same room with my other flowers, and they grow so very slow they are now not more than seven or eight inches high. What can I do to make them grow?—J. H. H., *Baltimore, Md., January 14, 1876.*

The Tuberose is a regular salamander. Your cool place, while it suits exactly most plants, is too cool for the Tuberose. Take them to your warmest living room, and they will, in week or so begin to make a vigorous growth—that is if the flower-stem is not destroyed.

PANSIES BLOOMING IN WATER ALL THE WINTER.—A lady of Summit Station, N. Y., writes us, January 24th: "I must tell you what I've had all winter—Pansies! About the 1st of November a lady brought me a bouquet of cut Pansies. I put them in a vase of water, where they have budded and blossomed all winter. They are now full of buds, and one dear little Pansy, and not so small either, fills my sleeping room with fragrance, so delicate yet so charming."



SILVER GEM HANGING BASKET.

Most of our readers perhaps have seen the silver glass globes in gardens, which give such a curious, miniature view of the surrounding scenery. Of the same material we now have a



SILVER GEM HANGING BASKET.

Hanging Vase, or Hanging Basket, as sometimes called. No material is so nicely in keeping with flowers as glass, and next to this silver. These vases are of double glass, silvered on the inside, and therefore have the appearance of highly polished silver, and, of course, never tarnish, but will clean as easily as the surface of a mirror. The effect of the foliage on the glass is certainly very pretty like the reflection of a crystal stream.

These vases have a false, perforated bottom, some two inches from the true bottom of the vase, and if lumps of charcoal or stones, or something of the kind are placed over the small holes to prevent the stoppage of the water, most excellent drainage is thus furnished, and all dripping, which often proves a serious injury to carpets, thereby prevented. Attached to this false bottom is a tube, by which any surplus water can be removed, by simply inclining the vase sufficiently.



FALSE BOTTOM.

A good healthy plant looks well in any simple vase or basket, or even in a common earthen pot, and nothing appears more forlorn than a poor sickly plant in a gay pot or expensive vase. The plants are always of the first consideration, and the pots merely accessories. Still, with good plants, a little taste in the selection of pots, &c., of graceful forms and appropriate colors, adds beauty, and, of course, pleasure. Only one size of the Silver Gem Hanging Basket is now made, about ten inches in diameter. Price \$2.50.

OUR NEW YEAR AND CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

Among the very acceptable presents, so kindly sent us by our friends, we have seen nothing prettier in a long time than an elegant picture, some two feet or more square, and composed entirely of engravings from various numbers of our catalogues, so nicely arranged as to appear like one perfect picture. It exhibits the wonderful skill and patience of a good lady of Illinois, and was exhibited at the Illinois State Fair, where it attracted deserved attention. Another very ingenious lady sent us flower baskets, of elegant designs, made of corn husks. The husks were bleached to snowy whiteness, and no one would have suspected their humble origin. Many young people sent us paintings of wild and cultivated flowers, very nicely made, while those by the young ladies were, of course, better done; we are just as thankful to the children. One lady sent us a bouquet of flowers all the way from Tyler, Texas, and it reached us in pretty good condition. It was picked in the garden the day before Christmas, and we noticed, among many other flowers, Roses, Mignonette, Antirrhinum, Phlox, Violets and Pinks. The boys did not forget us, but we never learned to pay compliments to the boys, and are a little awkward about it. One boy, and we guess he was a pretty old one, who lives somewhere on Long Island, sent us a Fernery, the largest we ever had; and when we got up early Christmas morning to see what St. Nicholas had brought us, and noticed that large case, all covered over with shawls and things to hide it, we almost thought we were to have a young elephant.

OUR FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDEN AND FLORAL GUIDE. — Some persons think because our books and chromos are sold at cost, that only our customers can obtain them. They are, of course, gotten up for the benefit of our customers, but all can have them at our published prices.



EDITORS TURNING FLORISTS.

We know and acknowledge the influence of the press. We want that influence always on the side of right. The press is one of the greatest educators in this land, and we want the people to receive a good education. Our friends of the press know something of what we have done to encourage a love of flowers among the members of the profession, but the people do not know—that is a secret between us. From a great many pleasant letters from Editors we select the following:

MR. VICK—*Dear Sir*:—We were surprised, but greatly pleased to receive, a few days since, the first number of your very beautiful "FLORAL GUIDE" for 1876. It seems that you never forget your friends. What with your excellent "QUARTERLIES," and the nice plants and flowers that we have grown from seeds received from you, we shall have abundant occasion to remember you in turn. I especially recall the very fine effect produced by our bed of various colored Phlox, they were the admiration of all who saw them; but not less beautiful and interesting were our Balsams, so very double, many of them, and of rarest colors, and the Petunias, which seemed to grow and bloom beyond all expectations. The *Daturas* (Wrightii,) which we grew from your seed were considered quite novel. The plants were large and strong, and the scented flowers attracted the attention of many. But our *Portulacas* must be mentioned; they thrive finely even amidst the hottest and driest weather. For a single flowering plant commend us to the little *Portulaca*.

By the way, we took pattern after a cut in one of your *Quarterlies*, and made a "pit," in which we are saving our own tender plants, and we must say that the light expense of fixing it up is nothing compared to the satisfaction we have of enjoying a daily visit to our pets, and especially so when we have some blooming, and you have only to look through our glass shutters to see them,—and here it is close to January! Our pit is about three feet deep, five feet wide and seven long, and raised or banked above ground, perhaps, two or more feet. We have it lined all round with plank, covered with sash, and doors over the sash to shut down at night. But enough for once.—R. W. McC., *Batesville, Arkansas*.

JUST AS WE PROMISE.—We keep all our promises. If any one fails to receive a copy of the *GUIDE*, who is entitled to it, or a *Chromo*, or any seeds ordered, please remember the cause is not a press of business, or carelessness on our part. Your book or seeds miscarried, or was stolen in passing through the mails; or, some post-office clerk pocketed your letter in hopes it contained money, before it reached us. Or, you forgot to sign your name, or give your Post-office or State. Now, please don't get angry and write us a scolding letter, and in the midst of the scolding forget to tell us what you ordered, or what you are entitled to, or where you live. Just make a plain statement of facts and all will be promptly made satisfactory.

BLUE PETER PEA.—One of our customers says, "Do recommend your readers to plant the *Blue Peter Pea*. It is a dwarf, requiring no sticks, yet is robust in growth and immensely productive. The very best of the *Dwarfs*." We can't, of course, tell all the truth at once, but we have spoken well of this Pea, as will be seen by our Priced List, where it is mentioned. When we were in England, in 1871, we spent a day or so with the originator of this Pea, and it pleased us very much. We saw several acres in full bearing, and were offered its exclusive sale in America. We did not care to monopolize so good a thing, but ordered a good stock, and have continued to do so ever since.

TARRAGON.—"I do not find *Tarragon* in your Catalogue. It is splendid for flavoring vinegar, and is popular in Europe. Where can I obtain seed?" so writes a correspondent. We have *Tarragon* seed, and scores of little things that we do not advertise—just keep them on hand to accommodate those strange people who are always hunting up strange things. *Tarragon* seed is 20 cents a packet.

BROOM CORN.—In answer to very many inquiries, we state here that we have *Broom Corn Seed*, but have omitted offering it in our regular Catalogue for several years on account of the difficulty of obtaining pure seed. We now have what we think to be the true evergreen, at 50 cents per quart, by mail, prepaid; and \$4.00 a bushel here.

TOBACCO.—"Have you a prejudice against Tobacco, that you do not advertise the seed?" Prejudice or not, we have Tobacco seed, though it is not of our own growing. Connecticut Seed Leaf, 10 cents a paper, and 50 cents an ounce. Havana, 20 cents a paper, and \$1.00 an ounce.

SEED DRILLS.—J. M. will please see the last page of last number, for description of Seed Drills and Wheel Hoes, which we need not repeat here.



SUCCESS WITH OUR FLOWER SEEDS.

We cannot avoid copying complimentary remarks occasionally about our flowers. Indeed, we must speak of the success of our friends, because we feel a great deal happier over it than they do themselves. We have a lively interest in the success of our customers, and an attachment to every package of seeds we send out. Some people ask, "Do you warrant your seeds?" No, we don't warrant, but we give a part of ourselves with each package of seeds we sell. Our hopes and good wishes and interest go with it. A bad report causes us pain, like what is felt at hearing a bad report of a child or dear friend. A good report brings a glow of pleasure we can hardly restrain. What causes us to feel happy just at this moment is the opening of a number of very pleasant letters from our friends, extracts from which we give:

MR. VICK:—I have been a customer of yours for six years, and I can truly say I have not had one failure where I have followed your directions. I think your seeds and bulbs just splendid. Last year I had the handsomest flower garden in Ottawa, and that is saying a good deal, considering Ottawa claims twelve thousand inhabitants.

I bought a paper of Double Petunia seed of you and raised twenty-eight plants. They were beautiful; but about one I wish to tell you, for hundreds of persons came from far and near to see it, and every day I had from five to twenty callers to see "The Big Petunia." It was pink and white, or, I should say, a pinkish purple and white, and every flower was plump *four inches across*, and as fragrant as the old-fashioned grass pinks. We have three florists here, and they all agree they never saw anything so grand. It grew fully eighteen inches high, perfectly erect, and as large round as a barrel, and had over four hundred flowers during the season. I have counted fifty-two perfect flowers at a time, and every one four inches across. I only wish you could have seen it. I have quite a good many plants raised from slips, and shall have a large bed in the spring. A great many have tried to buy it from me, and in skillful hands they say a fortune could be made from it. It seems to winter well, is not troubled with insects, and is as hardy as a single Petunia.

I see mentioned in your GUIDE a few words regarding *Cobæa scandens*. I raise it very successfully, and also winter it without much trouble. Mine grew over forty feet and bore more than half a bushel of flowers. In the fall I cut it down and set the box in the cellar, and in March I bring it to the light and heat and it shoots at once, and grows far more beautiful than the first year.

MR. VICK, I am ever ready and willing to say a good word for you, and help create a love of the beautiful. Everywhere your name is a household word, and your books treasured, and your memory beloved.—MRS. L. H. OTTAWA, III.

MR. JAMES VICK:—The seeds that I got of you last fall have turned out beyond all expectations. The Asters and Nasturtiums that I kept in my pit are blooming, and are the admiration of all who have seen them. I got all my seed from you, and my plants are finer than any I have seen here. Every one that has seen my plants "swear by" your seeds, and I think hereafter, in Charleston, you will have hosts of friends. I have tried the "Hellebore" remedy for worms that infest Asters, and it has proved all that your correspondent in your last book claims for it, and *does not injure the plants*.—GLENN E. DAVIS, *Charleston, S. C.*

A GLIMPSE AT THE FLORAL BEAUTY OF CALIFORNIA.—MRS. L. S. CLELAND, of Pescadero, to whom we are indebted for some bulbs of California Lilies, gives us a glimpse at the floral beauty of the country:—"We have also, growing wild among our forest of Giganteas, the pretty *Lilium Humboldtii*, I suppose it to be, although I have frequently found it *ten* feet high, instead of "four"; but you are so proverbially modest. And, oh! if you could see the beautiful *Dicentra* covering the ground all along the roadside in spring; and the Purple Rocket Lupine, and the Yellow Tree Lupine, growing sometimes fifteen feet in height; and those fragrant Azalea bushes, with their snow white flowers, the lower leaves blotched with gold; and our delicate, drooping, evergreen Nutmeg trees, with their slender, deep green, shining leaves."

AMERICAN HOLLY.—From half-a-dozen friends in North Carolina, and other points on the sea-coast, we have received specimens of Holly; and also from several in Kentucky. Our English friends, too, have remembered us very kindly, and we have now on our table the most elegant branches of English Holly we have ever seen, with immense clusters of bright scarlet berries, a couple of hundreds in a cluster, almost as large as clusters of Delaware grapes.

SEEDS FROM EGYPT.—One of the subscribers to the FLORAL GUIDE, in Osiout, Upper Egypt, places us under obligation for a dried specimen, and also seeds of a very pretty-looking climbing plant. He writes: "I send you seeds of a little climber that grows in the court of our house. It is quite pretty in vine and fruit, but I do not know its English name."

POSTAGE.—We pay all postage due the Government on seeds, &c., that we send by mail. Occasionally a Postmaster, from want of knowledge, or because he imagines a package is improperly wrapped, charges a customer letter postage. We ask our customers in every case to refuse to pay such charges, and inform us of the facts at once.



OUR FRIENDS IN CALIFORNIA.

There is such a variety of soil and climate in California, that persons residing only a few miles apart find a very different experience. We have been among the snow banks, twenty feet in height, where winter seemed to hold undisputed sway, and in two hours were picking strawberries and gathering cherries, surrounded by a wealth of roses and other flowers that we have seldom seen equaled. Mrs. CHIVERS writes from Humboldt county:

JAMES VICK, ESQ.:—I want you to send us your FLORAL GUIDE, which we have seen advertised. We cannot get greenbacks here under \$5, as we live sixty miles from Eureka, which is the nearest Money-Order office, and it is almost impossible to reach that place now, the road being over the Coast Range Mountains; and, besides, the sea-beach is passable only at certain tides, and these the mail-carrier has to take advantage of to pass. Oh, ye who live in security at the East, convenient to cars, pity us poor mountain-bound people, who can get about only at certain seasons! The storms of wind and rain, and the earthquakes are fearful. Not to be able to get paper for gold is strange, but true. Our climate is never too warm for fires, and never too cold for Geraniums and Roses to bloom all winter—neither frost nor snow. There are exquisitely beautiful Lilies here, and wild flowers beautiful beyond description. The people are getting very fond of flowers, and I want many from you.

Mrs. BARNUM, of San Francisco, is delighted with the climate, the ease with which flowers are grown, their wonderful development and great beauty:

MR. VICK:—When I was at the East recently, I sent to you for some seeds. A few I planted there, but brought the rest with me on my return here, and they have been cultivated in this splendid climate with much satisfaction to myself and friends. The Everlastings are especially fine, the Rose and White Acrocliniums being perfectly lovely. I sent some flowers raised from seed of these last-named to a lady in New Jersey, a few weeks since, and she writes me that she had never known that Immortelles could be so beautiful, that they were charming.

DO GLADIOLI RUN OUT.

Few of our choice varieties of flowers will retain their character a great while if neglected. Vigilance is the price of success. The commonest kinds of Gladioli increase much more rapidly than the improved kinds, so that if we have one common one in a bed with a dozen others that are choice, and keep them well-cultivated for several years, more than one-half of the bed will be the offspring of the one common bulb. For this reason people often think their Gladioli have run out.

MR. VICK:—In the last number of the GUIDE, I see the question asked, "Do Gladioli Run Out?" and I thought I would tell you about mine. I had several different colors, both dark and light, that I had cultivated for two or three years, but last summer was very dry and hot, and when my Gladioli came into bloom I was very much surprised and disappointed to find them all of one color, and very different from any that I had planted. They were an ugly brownish-scarlet, striped with orange or yellow, and no other color in the whole bed. I did not call them "run out," but thought they had gone back to the original old sort. One or two that I had planted in another place, where they were frequently watered, retained their bright colors. The seeds I ordered were received a week ago, and I have planted a part of them in the house. I plant all my seeds in boxes, and never have to complain that they do not come up.—Mrs. E. D., *Goshen, Ind., March 15th, 1875.*

CAULIFLOWER AND RADISHES IN TEXAS.—Our customers are so skilful and painstaking that they seem almost to work miracles. Who would think of growing fine Cauliflower in the Tropics, almost. A lady of Groesbeck, Texas, writes: "I have borne the burden and heat of fifty summers, but am still fond of flowers. The seeds we got from you last year did finely. I have now fine large cauliflower in the flower and bud: they are a great curiosity in this warm, dry country. I measured and weighed one of my California Mammoth Radishes, and it weighed seven pounds and three-quarters, and measured sixteen inches in length. All who helped to eat it pronounced it the best radish they had ever tasted."

BORECOLE AT THE SOUTH.—In places where the winters are not very severe the *Borecoles* furnish excellent greens the whole winter through, without trouble, for they may remain in the garden to be gathered as needed. A lady at Charlottesville, Va., writes January 3d: "I must say a word in favor of your Purple Borecole. We have been using it for over two months, and the plants promise to be full of leaves all winter."

OUR FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDEN—A good many people are disappointed when they receive it. OSCAR L. DORR, of Portsmouth, N. H., writes: "FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDEN received. I am delighted with it. Did not expect to receive a book so elegantly bound and illustrated. Please accept my sincere thanks." And so write several hundreds of other disappointed persons.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MR. VICK:—Could you introduce a department for questions and answers into your excellent catalogues? This is quite customary now. If you think favorably of it, I wish you would insert the following, with replies. What is the best remedy against the enemies of Roses? What will preserve our Mignonette from the worm that has lately infested it? How shall we get back our currants? What is the process for changing single flowers to double ones? How shall one make an Asparagus bed? Why do Pansies lessen in size after coming from the florist?—Mrs. M. R. A. BENCHLEY, *Ithaca, N. Y.*

We have always devoted a large space to answering the questions of correspondents.

The principal insect enemies of the Rose are the Green-fly, the Leaf-hopper, sometimes improperly called Thrips; the Rose-slug, and the Rose-bug.

The Green-fly is easily destroyed by syringing the infested plants with a weak solution of tobacco—take a quantity of tobacco or tobacco stems, and let them stand in water until the strength is soaked out of them. If the water is too strong it will burn the foliage and turn it yellow, therefore, before using, it should be tested by dipping into it some green foliage, and if it burns it, it is too strong and must be reduced by adding water. When sufficiently diluted, the plants can be syringed with it.

The Leaf-hopper can be destroyed by the same means, but we have always preferred to use a weak solution of whale-oil soap for it, say 1 lb. of soap to five gallons of water. The plants can be syringed with it, and care should be taken to throw the water upwards against the under sides of the leaves as well as on the upper sides, as the insects are usually in greater numbers beneath.

The Rose-slug, which eats the upper surface of the leaf, and is often very destructive, can be effectually destroyed by the use of whale-oil soap, as described above. Our own experience is that with good soil, good cultivation, and the timely and proper use of whale-oil soap, there is as little difficulty in raising Roses and keeping them thrifty as there is in raising Beets or Turnips.

The Rose-bug can only be successfully attacked by hand-picking or brushing off into a dish of water, when they can be scalded or otherwise destroyed.

The Mildew which often attacks the Rose should be treated with sulphur, either by sprinkling upon it the flour of sulphur, or by mixing the sulphur with water and applying it with a syringe.

Air-slaked lime and carbolic powder seem the most effective in destroying the Cabbage-worm that has lately taken to eating Mignonette.

The Currant-worm in this section has seen his best days. Hellebore is the best application. When the enemy is gone we shall, of course, have no trouble in getting our currants started again.

In the doubling of a flower, the stamens and pistils, in whole or in part, become petals. This is unnatural, of course, and is called a monstrosity by Botanists. Sometimes this change is effected by high culture, and sometimes by the very opposite course, hard usage—almost starvation. Some time we may give an illustrated article on this subject.

The soil for Asparagus should be mellow and deep, and made very rich with manure. Make beds so narrow that you can reach to the center. Obtain good one or two-year old plants, and set them a foot apart, spreading the roots in the way they grew before being taken up. The crown should be three inches below the surface of the bed.

The Pansy only gives its best flowers when the plant is young and vigorous. It does not flower well in hot and dry weather. If you get plants from the florist, see that they are young and vigorous—the younger the better. Don't pick out the oldest, largest plants; if you do you will make a bad selection.

THE THUNBERGIA IN OHIO.—JOSEPH J. G. STEDDORN, who lives at Lebanon, Ohio, went fifty miles to see the exhibition of flowers we made at Cincinnati, at the Exposition. Although only fifteen years old, he has also sent us a very fine picture of a Thunbergia, painted in oil from Nature. Accompanying this picture we received dried specimens, and a letter, from which we make the following extract:

"Last season we bought Thunbergia seed of you, which we planted carefully, and then took good care of the plants. They were planted in the open ground. They surprised us, both in the size of flowers and length of the vine. The vines of some of them were as much as eight feet long. As the flowers were so much larger than the picture in the GUIDE (which you say is about natural size), I concluded to paint a picture the size of our flowers and send it to you. I will also send some pressed flowers with the picture, so that you may see that it is not too large."



MUSHROOM CULTURE.

All our readers know that the common Mushroom is to be found only in the autumn, when the weather is somewhat cool and moist. To grow them artificially we must secure the same conditions. A warm, dry place will not answer. We have no difficulty in growing Mushrooms at any season of the year in cellars where we store roots and bulbs during the winter. In fact, we use them for this purpose and secure a good supply. We have seen them growing most abundantly in sections of Europe quite as warm and dry as in our Northern States. It seems strange to say that a crop can be secured in the garden, subject to all kinds of unfavorable weather and sudden changes, yet cannot be successfully grown in an underground cellar, while tens of thousands of bushels are grown in pits by the Mushroom growers of Paris for every one grown above ground.

Having learned that Rev. THOS. H. YOUNGMAN, now of Lyons, had given considerable attention to this subject, in response to our request Mr. Y. has furnished us with his experience :

MR. VICK :—*Dear Sir* :—I think most of the directions for raising Mushrooms in boxes and in barns, and out-of-the-way houses of all kinds, were written by men who had never tried to raise them, or had tried it in *England*, where the weather and condition of the air is damp and not so extremely hot and cold as it is here. They can be so raised here, but the trouble is far greater than the reward. I have tried to raise them in boxes in my cellar, out of doors, in my barn and under my barn floor. The last place succeeded best, but that did not half pay, as, for a day's work, I only received three small meals of Mushrooms. The reason of failure is that the mild, temperate weather is too short. You make your bed early in the spring, and just when the fruit would come it is hot, and the Mushrooms are alive: you make it in the fall, and before the fruit comes winter is upon you; and if you make your bed in the summer it will be alive, and the maggots will destroy your spawn.

The best result was obtained as follows: At the south end of my house I dug a hole a foot and a half deep, three feet wide, and five feet long; filled it with manure and put soil on it, in which I sowed Radishes for an early crop. When the Radishes were all pulled off, I took a box from my cellar that had been planted with Mushroom spawn and prepared in hope of raising Mushrooms. I found this box to be full of Mushroom spawn; for three weeks the soil on it had been covered with little Mushrooms, none of which grew large enough to gather—only as large as a pea. I took four or six handfuls of the spawn that was in this box, and with a stick I made holes through the soil in the aforesaid bed down to the manure. Into these holes I introduced the spawn, a handful in a hole; then I trod the bed solid and left it. The next fall, and the next spring, and the fall after that I had a crop of Mushrooms—three crops from one planting. Last spring, when I planted my Cucumbers, I put a half bushel of well-rotted horse manure and a handful of fresh spawn into each hill, with from four to six inches of soil on the manure, and gathered abundant Mushrooms in the fall. This was the least trouble, and yielded the largest crop of Mushrooms. I shall try it again.—REV. THOS. H. YOUNGMAN.

OUR PANSIES

We are pleased with our Pansies. We have worked earnestly and patiently to obtain a strain of Pansies that would bear our summer heat without very great suffering; that would at least give us fine large flowers in the spring and autumn. Every evidence of our success pleases us, because the Pansy is such a beautiful, honest, sociable flower. It seems to look at you and talk, and nods, and bows its head in a very knowing way, and sometimes laughs, truly. Our friends seem quite as pleased as ourselves with the Pansies:

The Pansies beat all! I compared with some of my neighbors, who had been supplied with seed from several famous houses, but mine beat them all. They were the largest and finest I ever saw, or that my neighbors ever saw. Some are yet in bloom. I would send you some but suppose you have some of the same. Many persons, when coming to Floral Home, would say, "I must see those Pansies before I go." I could send you a splendid article from our county paper.—A. M. E., *Ft. River, La Salle Co., Ill., Dec. 15, 1875.*

From the one package of mixed Pansy seed I obtained of you I gave two of my neighbors each a pinch, and planted the remainder. I have at this time forty-seven plants in full bloom—a sight that truly dazzles the eye with its brilliancy and beauty.—MAGGIE G. COBEL, *Ellsworth, Ill., Oct. 20, 1875.*

STRAWBERRY TOMATO.—The Strawberry Tomato we advertise is the Ground Cherry or Winter Cherry, and is called in some places Husked Tomato. It is a native of South America, and quite useful where fruit is scarce, having a pleasant fruity taste. One of our customers, Mr. SYNCO, of Petersburg, Virginia, was a little surprised when his neighbors, to whom he gave plants, informed him that it was the old Ground Cherry. This, however, is the fact, and we make it prominent now to prevent disappointment.

OUR FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDEN.—Everybody says a good word for our FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDEN. A lady of Pittsburgh writes: "For chaste binding, beautiful engravings, and chromos of flowers colored true to nature, I have never seen it surpassed, and seldom equaled."



OUR CORRESPONDENCE.

We like to look over a basket of letters from correspondents in all parts of the world—from the missionary in India or Palestine, the merchant in China, and the wife of the California miner. It is a pleasure and not a task, and we can occasionally cull a useful fact, valuable to us and our readers. It is only the poetry that troubles us. In the first place, we are not much of a judge of poetry; in the *second* place, we have no taste for common poetry, and what we get is *very* common. Once, in a fit of desperation, we thought we would publish one of the worst pieces we had on hand, just to show how we were afflicted, and to deter anyone from sending us more poetry. Imagine our feelings, when, a few days after the issue of the number, we received a letter from a lady, stating that we might as well put our name to our poems, as we could not disguise our *STYLE*.

We thought then we had done with poetry for ever. But we have relented. We have a poem now that is not common by any means. It came to us without name, except what is seen below, and that possibly is fictitious. It was composed by some editor, because it was written on printing paper, with a pencil, just as editors do, for they are generally too poor to indulge in such luxuries as letter paper. So we concluded to give it to our readers. It will be seen that the author possesses considerable historical knowledge:

MEDITATIONS IN A GARDEN.

BY CAUL I. FLOWER.

Of all the men within this wicked world (and, Goodness sakes, they're thick!)
There's none who knows a flowerier trick
Than Mister JAMES (Rochester) VICK.

His parterres are with blooms so thick
That Babylon's gardens, built on brick,
Could never have looked one-half as slick
As Rochester Nurseries owned by VICK.

And that's the reason why the Dictionary
was spelled, in times classic,
Says Nebuchadnezzar oft did lick
And kick
His men, and swear he'd send for VICK.

Those kings, you know, are terr-i-fic,
And oft with whips and cowhides f'lick

Their folks; and thrash with walking-stick
Their gardeners, 'cause they ain't like VICK.

When Adam said to Eve, "My chick!
The flowers in Eden are none too thick,"
She softly sighed in Hebraic,
"Dear Addy, let us send for VICK!"

And if they had, just in the nick
Of time—('tis best to do things quick,)
Poor Eve had had no need to pick
That apple, 'stead of flowers from VICK.

All this is gospel, sound as hick-ory.
But as my muse is sick,
And time runs on with ceaseless tick
And click,
I think I'll send these lines to VICK.

THE LONGIFLORUM LILY.

The Longiflorum Lily is one of the best Lilies grown anywhere, and the Candidum is equally good, if not a little better—but they are both good enough. We shall never desert these two old and beautiful friends for anything that may yet be discovered in Asia or Africa, or the Isles of the Sea. One of our customers in Vermont gives us a very interesting experience, which we are tempted to give. We had not before thought that the Lancifolium bloomed too late for even the most northern limit of our country:

MR. VICK:—*Sir*:—In looking over the last number of your Quarterly, I noticed one or two letters in regard to the Longiflorum Lily. I think I ought to give my success. Some five years ago I bought one or two bulbs, and without any special pains in propagating I have given away, from time to time, probably more than fifty bulbs. Last summer I had a little over one hundred and fifty blossoms, and I think it was the best single show of flowers that I ever saw. I find this Lily also the very best for blooming in the house, being so much earlier than the other Japan Lilies, and surer and earlier than Auratum. Last winter the mercury stood between twenty and thirty-five degrees below zero for weeks, and yet with only a light covering these Lilies came out strong in spring. I think that enough is not said in favor of this and the common white (Candidum) Lily. I find the Auratum not so hardy. The Lancifoliums are too late to compete with these white varieties, frost usually coming before they are well in blossom. The second day of the present month, I picked Pansies in perfect flower from plants in my garden—Could write indefinitely on flowers.—H. B. OLDS, *Norwich, Vt., Jan. 4, 1875.*

OUR FLOWERS IN THE CALIFORNIA MOUNTAINS.—We have a letter from Monitor, California, a mining camp seven thousand feet above the sea, written by Mrs. B. E. HUNTER, who sends us a fine specimen of our green-edge Petunias, and some Portulacca seed, saved from flowers of unusual size. Frosts were then severe, and tender plants were removed to the house, although only the middle of September.



TRUE LOVE OF FLOWERS.

How we do admire the true, hearty love of flowers, with no sham, no straining for effect, no anxiety about what people will think, no ostentation, but a genuine, whole-souled love of the beautiful creations of Infinite Goodness and Wisdom. Some one has been writing a description of his new home in the West, for "Our Fireside Friend," of Chicago, and how the good wife made the "wilderness blossom as the rose." It is so simple and good that we give an extract:

"Polly at work in the garden makes a picturesque scene, though her work is much more in the nature of putting than of downright labor. Of course one of the first requisites of our new home was a flower garden. We did not begin it by selecting a list of fashionable flowers from the most fashionable seedsmen, but it began almost by itself and then grew, and grew, under Polly's care. Our beginnings were—weeds, the parson called them; wild-flowers, Polly and I. When the ploughman was breaking the sod for our kitchen-garden, Polly went before him with a trowel and saved various vines and plants, that were not common even in the woods. These began our garden. Then some of our old-fashioned friends sent us seeds of marigolds, balsams, sweet Williams, asters, phlox and others. This was a good beginning. These flowers were old friends and companions. They brought back the days when we gathered bouquets for the teacher. When these were sown and growing we turned to the head Professor of Flowers, VICK, for such other seeds as we wanted. Polly says that she would like to know Mr. VICK, but I tell her we have a very close acquaintance with him through his publications. We went through his list and selected our seeds. I remember there were ordered mignonette, sweet-alyssum, pansy, verbenä, portulaca, and petunia seeds, and quite a list of bulbs. Polly selected and I wrote the order. In fact that was as far as my energies were called into play by the flowers, with the exception of spading the ground for the beds.

Day after day, when baby was gracious, Polly puttered over her flower bed. Seeds were sown and patted pretty much as lovingly as the children were tucked away at night. It didn't seem to me that she was doing it quite right, but she rather prided herself on her knowledge of gardening and pooh-poohed all my cautions. The seeds sprouted and the plants grew, and our table was graced the summer through with flowers. Some of our friends are disposed to smile at our peculiarities in the way of flowers. Blossoms seem to have their times of being fashionable and unfashionable, like ladies' bonnets. But Polly goes on her way, sowing such seed, as she desires, and planting a garden for our tastes and likes, and not that we may make a greater show than our neighbors."

THE DAHLIA.

For ten years we have been growing hundreds of seedling Dahlias, and importing the best we could obtain in Europe, seeking not only for the most beautiful varieties but those best adapted to our climate. Our exhibitions of this flower at the State Fairs have astonished the most experienced florists. A lady of Ellsworth, Ill., writes: "Many thanks to you for the Dahlia roots; they all grew, and from the six roots I obtained twelve plants. I have raised Dahlias before, but never had such fine ones. Lady Bird bloomed the last of July, the others commenced blooming in August. Lothair is a marvel of beauty, having the largest flowers I ever knew Dahlias to bear, and as fine as anyone could wish. Lurline is such a real little beauty that I call it "Little Gem!" Of the flower seed I sent to you for all grew well except the Xeranthemum, and though I planted the seed at three different times I failed to get a plant, but I am not going to leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one. I am rejoicing at my wonderful success."

THE CALIFORNIA RADISH.—The California Radish is a large, white, crisp and tender winter Radish. Although called *California Radish* it is really Chinese, the seed being brought to California by the Chinese emigrants, and by them it is very extensively cultivated in the neighborhood of all the large cities of California. We have eaten it scores of times in that country, and felt great pleasure in introducing it this side of the Mountains. J. H. THOMPSON urges us to publish the praise of this Radish far and wide, and writes: "The California Radish, from the seed I got of you last spring, beat anything I have heard of yet. I had them fifteen inches long and between seven and eight inches in diameter, and weighing seven and three-fourth pounds. They were as tender and crisp as any one could ask for, and the best flavored Radish I ever tasted."

DRYNESS OF HOUSE COUNTERACTED.—Mrs. A. H. GLANCY, of Atchison, Kansas, has a great number of plants in perfect health—more than a hundred. The lady writes: "House heated with furnace, but the dryness of the atmosphere is counteracted by frequent sprinklings. Success due to your teachings." All we ask is that the ladies have the right to vote, and then we shall not care for Third Terms, nor Inflationists, nor anything of the kind.

ONIONS ALMOST AS LARGE AS PUMPKINS.—DAVID A. CAIRNS, of Salinas City, Monterey Co., Cal., writes: "From your large White Italian Tripoli Onion Seed, I raised one weighing five pounds, and three weighing seven and one-half pounds."



OUR FLOWER FARMS.

Long before offering a seed for sale, we had grown, or attempted to grow, and improved, or tried to improve, most of our popular flowers, and had also tested many kinds, new and rare, from all quarters of the world. After resigning the editorial profession, with the exception of the preparation of matter for our own little works, and engaging largely in the seed business, we felt that our reputation, as well as the interests of our customers, required that all varieties should be tested, and as many as possible be grown under our own inspection. With this view we have been gradually enlarging our grounds until we now have more than a hundred acres, principally devoted to the culture of flowers for seeds and bulbs. At certain seasons of the year the display is more grand than any one would be likely to imagine. Half-a-mile of Phloxes, and Pansies, and Petunias and Lilies, fields of bloom, acres of beauty, are not to be seen everywhere, nor in all countries. Still, it must be remembered, we grow seeds and bulbs as a business, and not for effect. Our culture is field culture, with plows and horses and cultivators. Those who expect to see our flowers in nicely arranged beds, on extensive lawns, will certainly be disappointed. Our best show of flowers is from the middle of July until the middle of September, and in these months we shall be happy to have our friends see and enjoy our display. In May, June, and part of July, we have nothing particularly to interest the public. We know some of our friends have felt disappointed when visiting us out of season, and hence this caution. We do sometimes make a grand display of Tulips and Hyacinths in May, but not always, for often our customers do not leave us a bulb for our own planting.

The Editor of THE ILLUSTRATED CHRISTIAN WEEKLY being in Rochester, saw a little of our flowers, though quite too early to see them at their best, and was so interested that he sent an Artist to make sketches for that journal. Mr. WHITNEY certainly did his work admirably, for we had no idea before that our places possessed so much beauty. Having procured the engravings, we take pleasure in presenting the article to our readers.

[From The Illustrated Christian Weekly.]

VICK'S CELEBRATED FLOWER-FARMS.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY E. J. WHITNEY.

Until within a few years but few flower-seeds were grown in America for the market, and these were of the commonest kinds, such as could be produced with little care and skill. Our seedsmen imported their finest sorts mainly from France and Germany, a few from England, while Holland supplied not only the bulbs commonly known as Holland bulbs, but most of our lilies. Mr. JAMES VICK, of Rochester, N. Y., was the pioneer in the systematic growing of flower-seeds, and he is now without doubt the most extensive grower in America. After pursuing this work for several years, and meeting with only moderate success, though employing experienced seed-growers from Europe, he spent a season among the most noted seedsmen of the Old World studying their methods. He particularly noticed the effects of different climates, attributing many of his early failures to ignorance on this point. Returning to the work with new energy and more knowledge, he has made flower-seed growing a grand success.

Still, all kinds of seeds cannot be grown with profit in any one country. Some sorts are raised best and cheapest in the moist climate of England or Scotland, others are more easily perfected in the south of France; while, on account of some peculiarity of soil or climate, or especial skill and experience, others are only to be obtained in perfection from Germany. To ascertain what kinds would succeed here, and which of these could be profitably grown, required time, travel and money, but Mr. VICK is now reaping his reward, and raises many varieties cheaper than they can be obtained in Europe, and many better, so that seeds of American growth are sought by the best European florists.

Mr. VICK's gigantic flower-gardens in the blooming season, July and August, make a grand display of floral beauty. Here will be found in the season several acres of Verbenas, the same of Petunias, Pansies, Cockscombs, Zinnias, etc., while Lilies and Gladioli occupy much more space. A score of other things are grown in smaller quantities.



Many kinds of plants do not perfect their seed in the open ground, and to accommodate these half-a-dozen or more houses are erected. We give a sketch of some of these houses, and also of one devoted to the finer kinds of Petunias, known to florists as *Petunia grandiflora*. This variety has very large flowers, often four or five inches in diameter, but produce no seed if planted in the open ground, and indeed bear none in the house unless supplied with plenty of air and sheltered from the rains and dews; and even then every flower must be artificially fertilized. To meet these requirements a roof, partly of glass, is erected on posts, and entirely open at the



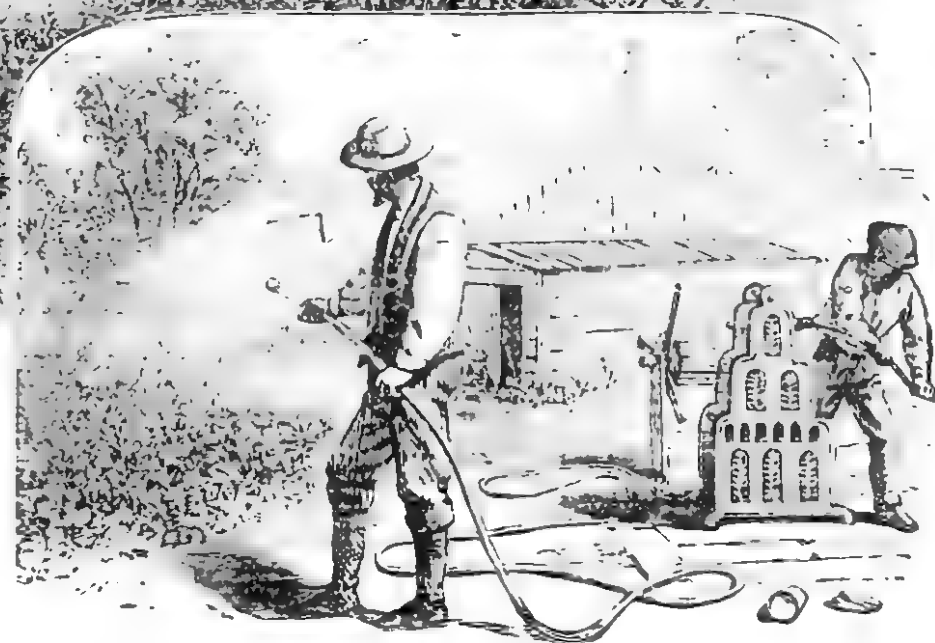
FERTILIZING SINGLE PETUNIAS WITH POLLEN FROM DOUBLE FLOWERS.

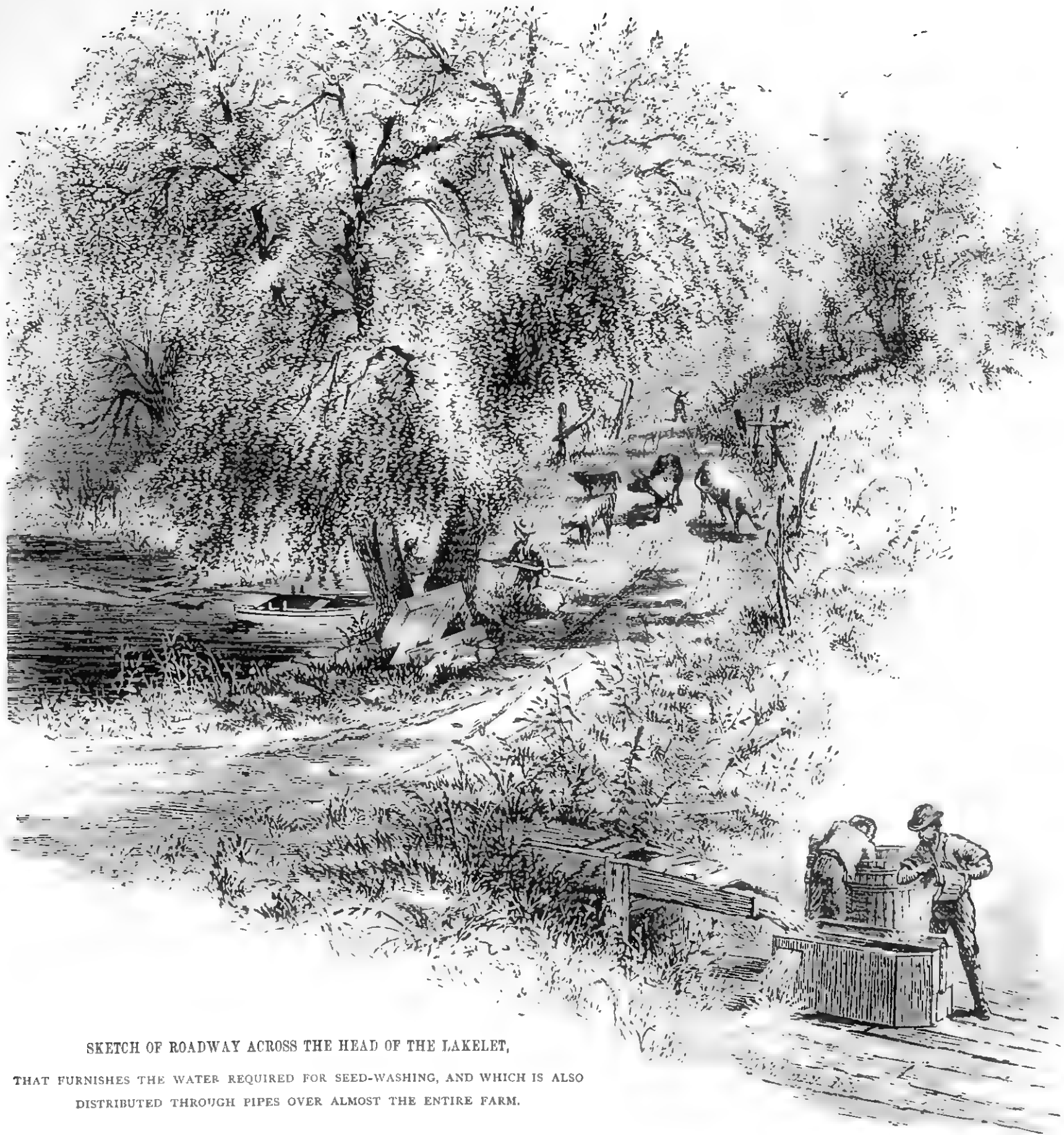
sides and ends. The plants are grown in pots, and every morning each opening flower is fertilized by collecting the pollen on a camel's-hair pencil and distributing it among the pistils. This plan is generally, though not always, successful.

The Double Petunia bears no seed, the natural organs of the flower being destroyed in doubling. Seeds that produce double flowers are obtained in this interesting way: A house is filled with fine single-flowering plants, in pots, while another house near by is filled with plants bearing double flowers. The double flower, while it has no pistils, and but very imperfect stamens, does occasionally produce a little pollen. The operator picks a basket of double flowers and takes them to the house containing Single Petunias. He then tears the double flowers in pieces, searching carefully for pollen, and collecting it with a camel's-hair brush. Every grain is



VIEW OF SEEDHOUSE, WINDMILL AND PROPAGATING HOUSE,
WITH A GLIMPSE OF THE WHITE ASTER AND DAHLIA BEDS, AND THE TREES GROWING ON THE EDGE
OF THE RAVINE, IN WHICH ARE THE SPRINGS THAT FEED THE LAKELET. ALSO, THE
PROCESS OF WATERING BEDS OF FLOWERS BY THE USE OF THE
FORCE PUMP.





SKETCH OF ROADWAY ACROSS THE HEAD OF THE LAKELET,
THAT FURNISHES THE WATER REQUIRED FOR SEED-WASHING, AND WHICH IS ALSO
DISTRIBUTED THROUGH PIPES OVER ALMOST THE ENTIRE FARM.



worth more and costs more than its weight in gold. This pollen is transferred to the pistils of the single flowers, their own stamens being first removed. It is thus easy to understand why some kinds of flower-seeds are not cheap. Most of this work is done at what is called the Home Place, consisting of about twenty-five acres, nearly two miles east of the center of the city, on East Avenue.

Five miles north from Rochester, towards Lake Ontario, and within two miles of its shore, near a station known as Barnard's, on the Charlotte branch of the New York Central railroad, is situated *Vick's Flower-Farm*. It consists of sixty-five acres, and possesses much natural beauty. A deep wooded ravine runs irregularly through its centre, and through this winds a little spring-fed stream, which, near the centre of the farm, widens into a lakelet of several acres, which empties itself over a little fall of six or eight feet. This water is used for the washing of seed, an operation which the artist has sketched for us. It is also pumped by a windmill into large elevated tanks, and from these is distributed through iron pipes over the entire grounds. And by convenient arrangements for attaching hose an acre can be watered in a very short time, so that the plants here are never allowed to suffer from drought. The soil is a sandy loam, the timber in the neighborhood mainly chestnut and oak, and here are grown those plants that flourish best in a warm soil. Perhaps the largest field devoted entirely to one kind of flowers, at the time of our visit, was one filled with Dahlias, and containing six or more acres. It was supposed to include every variety known of real merit, and the display was gorgeous. Next in importance, perhaps, were the Asters, of every form and color, from the little dwarf bouquet, a mass of flowers six or eight inches in height, to the great Washington, bearing flowers four or five inches in diameter on plants four feet in height. Each color is planted separately, and at distant points, to prevent mixture.



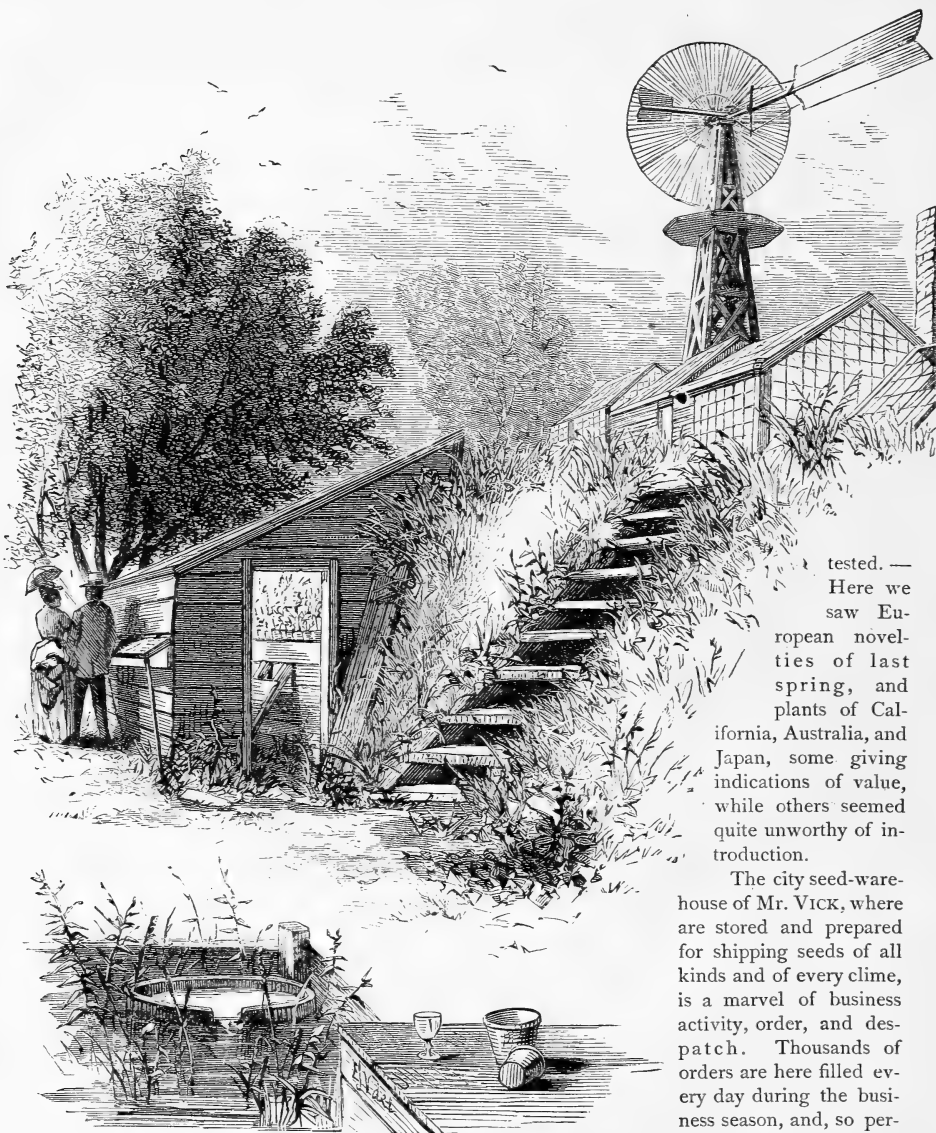
FERTILIZING THE LARGE-FLOWERED PETUNIAS.

The *Phlox Drummondii*, a native of America, luxuriates in this light soil, and no other flower, we think, produces such a solid unbroken mass of color—an acre of scarlet, an acre of white, and pink, and so on through six or seven different varieties, and as many colors, without a single mixture of color, or break, or barren spot to mar its splendor. Several hundred pounds of this seed are grown every year. The seed saved for distinct colors is gathered from the middle of each acre, and early in the season: the remainder, though saved separate later in the year, is used only for mixed colors. To make a good "mixture" it is necessary to grow the colors separate in this way, for if mixed seed is sown those varieties that seed freely will soon "run out" the weaker kinds. Although many other kinds of seed are grown in small quantities, the Aster, Phlox, Dahlia, and Tuberose seem to be specialties.

Several convenient houses have been erected for growing the plants which are afterwards transferred to the open fields, (a view of some of these will be observed,) and scores of frames are



used for the same purpose. Airy, well-ventilated drying-houses are necessary for drying, cleaning, and storing the seed, as well as cellars of immense capacity for storing the bulbs and roots. One very interesting department is the trial grounds, where everything new or unknown is carefully



VIEW FROM THE STAIRS AT SULPHUR SPRING.

or confusion. This establishment is one of the most complete in the world, embracing, besides the ordinary conveniences of the best seed-houses, artists and engravers' rooms, printing-offices (English and German,) book-bindery, box-factory, and post-office, where the mail matter is

tested. — Here we saw European novelties of last spring, and plants of California, Australia, and Japan, some giving indications of value, while others seemed quite unworthy of introduction.

The city seed-warehouse of Mr. VICK, where are stored and prepared for shipping seeds of all kinds and of every clime, is a marvel of business activity, order, and despatch. Thousands of orders are here filled every day during the business season, and, so perfectly is everything systematized, without hurry



weighed, the stamps attached and cancelled, the packages distributed into routes, packed into mail-bags, and despatched directly to the postal-cars, a member of the establishment being a sworn post-office clerk.

Some things described and illustrated in this article have been changed since the artist made his drawings. In our grounds near the city we make use of water from the City Water Works, which is conveyed into every department. At our Flower-Farm we have our own Water Works,



MEN ENGAGED IN CUTTING BULBS.

and have entirely abandoned the use of force pumps, one of which is shown in operation, and which was truthful at the time the drawing was taken. To tens of thousands of readers who will never see our grounds, we thought this sketch would be interesting, and perhaps not unprofitable. It is possible that we may not be able to give very much attention to our next number, so we thought we would make this as attractive as possible. The Centennial Year is upon us. A score of our friends are coming from Europe, gentlemen who entertained us in the Old World with princely hospitality, and we must show them the warmth and heartiness of Republican simplicity. If, therefore, our third number of this year is not what we all could desire, please remember, good friends, that we are engaged in sustaining the honor and hospitality of the American people.



THE NOVELTIES.

WE have been looking over the list of Novelties offered by the European Florists, as well as our correspondence about new things, with the view of giving readers the cream of the whole matter—and we must say, the cream looks quite thin. From flowers grown from our mixed



ASTER, HALF DWARF MULTIFLORA.

a Candytuft, called HYBRID DWARF, that proved desirable, being of a dwarf, compact habit, and flowering with great profusion. The colors were clear, and embracing a great range from white to carmine. Price of package, 50 cents.

SOLANUM PSEUDO-CAPSICUM NANUM. This is a compact dwarf variety of the old *Jerusalem Cherry*, and is really a very pretty plant for winter



SOLANUM PSEUDO-CAPSICUM NANUM.

The Dwarf *Convolvulus* would be very popular but for its bad habit of going to sleep on bright days, as early as nine or ten in the morning, and remaining with its eyes closed until early the

Petunia, or Phlox, or Zinnia seed, our customers can select a score of Novelties as good as many offered by the foreign florists.

ASTER, HALF DWARF MULTIFLORA, MAUVE.—This variety was sent us a year ago, by Messrs. VIL-MORIN & Co., of Paris, for trial, and afforded much satisfaction. It is an abundant bloomer, in fact, quite extraordinary in this respect; the flowers are perfect in form and superb in color. Our engraving shows the habit of the plant. Seed is now very dear, but will be quite reasonable, we hope, another season. Price per paper, 75 cents.

ASTER, CROWN MULTIFLORA.—This is a half-dwarf plant, from twelve to eighteen inches in height, and a wonderfully free bloomer. The flowers are of the crown section, with white centers. There are three distinct colors, lilac, rose and red; but we have thought best to offer it in mixed colors. Packages, 25 each.

CANDYTUFT.—From the same source we secured



DWARF CANDYTUFT.

They were taken up in the autumn, potted and removed to the house, and in a few weeks were exceedingly ornamental. Price per packet, 15 cents.

ELICHRYSUMS. Two *Elichrysums* of a compact, dwarf habit, one *rose*, and the other *dark red*, proved desirable on account of their clear color and good habit. Price of each, 75 cents.

We notice a few of the Novelties that we have not tested, that appear to us to be the most promising.

CRIMSON FLOWERED KAULFUSSIA. The improvement claimed over old sorts is its bright carmine color. Price per packet, 50 cents.

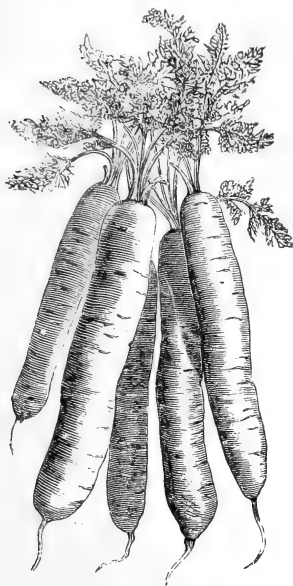
MIMULUS CUPREUS NANUS. The plants form very compact globular bushes, not more than five inches in height. Flowers fiery red; leaves small, and shining dark green. Price per packet, 75 cents.

CONVOLVULUS MINOR, NEW CRIMSON VIOLET.



next morning. This new variety is said to have a yellow throat, surrounded with a band of snowy white, and this broadly margined with crimson. Price per packet, 75 cents.

TOBACCO. We notice several varieties of Ornamental Tobacco, but all Ornamental Corn and Tobacco are useless in America, where both are so commonly grown in the fields. The *Cenotheras*, also, will never be popular in America, and only two or three of the very best are worthy a place in our gardens. They grow too abundant and too well all over the country to be prized for culture.



LONG RED WITHOUT CORE.

POA AMABILIS. A strong growing Abyssinian Grass, two feet in height. In appearance like *Biza maxima*, but, of course, larger and stronger. Price per packet, 75 cents.

ZINNIAS. Some half-a-dozen new Zinnias are offered, but we have never found anything among the foreign Zinnias that would equal what our customers grow from the mixed seed we send them at ten cents a paper. If any one wishes to test the truth of this matter, we can furnish the foreign seed at cost, just for the experiment, which will be for twenty-five seeds 50 cents.

FOR THE HOUSE OR CONSERVATORY.

CINERARIA, LARGE-FLOWERING DWARF. A finer, larger flower than the old Dwarf Cineraria, and the plant more compact and better in habit. Price per packet, \$2.00.

DOUBLE PRIMULA, PRINCE ARTHUR. Said to be one of the very best crimson varieties, and has received several First Class Certificates. Pyramidal in form, free bloomer, and makes a handsome plant. Price per packet, \$2.00.

VEGETABLES.

AFTER a pretty thorough search among the new Vegetables offered, we can find nothing that we think best to bring to the notice of our readers without a season of trial, except two carrots, which belong to a section of the family that possess peculiarities of which we have for some time designed to speak. Most of our Carrots taper gradually from the top to the bottom, but varieties have been introduced that are of uniform size the whole length, terminating in a short, small tail, and these have been called stump-tailed, rat-tailed, &c. The *Early French Short-Horn* and *Early Very Short Scarlet*, are of this class. More recently, varieties of this stump-tailed habit have been introduced from France without the



HALF-LONG SCARLET CARENTAN.



usual *heart* or *core*. One of these varieties we have had in our priced list for a year or two, and it is called the *Half-Long Scarlet Stump-Rooted*, of *Nantes*, but we shortened this long title.

Among the new Vegetables offered in France this year are two of this class—*Half-Long Scarlet Carentan* is the one shown in the small engraving. It is very early, grows with a very small top, and almost without leaves. It is no doubt the best of all for forcing, but in this country we seldom grow carrots in hot-beds or forcing houses. The other, shown in the largest engraving, is called *Long Red Without Core*. It is perfectly round, of about the same size its entire length, small top and leaves, bright red color, tender and sweet. We can supply either of these at \$2.50 a pound; 30 cents an ounce, and 10 cents a paper. Those who would like to test this class in a cheaper way, can obtain the *Half-Long Scarlet Stump-Rooted* at half these prices.

EDGING PLANTS.

ALMOST every day some one writes inquiring what is best for a low edging for flower beds. For a summer edging, of course, almost any low-growing, compact plant will answer—anything either pretty in foliage or flowers. What is generally desired, however, is a permanent border; and plants adapted for this purpose, and for northern latitudes, are by no means abundant. The old-fashioned box edging has become unpopular everywhere, and never could endure our Northern winters without more or less injury, certainly enough to destroy its beauty. While thinking



ARMERIA VULGARIS.

of this subject, so frequently brought to our notice, we remembered an old-fashioned plant we had often seen used in England, as a substitute for box, the *Armeria vulgaris*, or *Thrift*, but most commonly called, we believe, *Sea Pink*, from its color perhaps, and the fact that it abounds on the sea coast, and in all kinds of places, in the salt marshes, and on the high and barren cliffs. The plant grows only about six inches in height, and is composed of a perfect mass of narrow, short, grass-like leaves. From this mass of foliage, wiry stems are thrown upwards from four to six inches in height, and these bear clusters of pink flowers, stem and flowers very much resembling the *Scabiosa*. We have endeavored in the engraving to show a small piece of a border formed of Thrift, containing several plants. It blooms pretty freely through the whole summer.

Desirous to give this plant a good trial we ordered seeds from Europe for several years, but failed to receive any, because it is so common that no one thinks of purchasing the seed any more than we would Mullin seed. Once, when we were on the sea-coast of England, near Harwich, in the county of Essex, we observed acres of this plant in flower, and engaged persons to secure us seed at the proper time and forward to America. This seed germinated very slowly; indeed not a quarter came up the first summer, but a good deal more than that quantity the second, and we do not know but some is still "coming." Plants, however, increase pretty rapidly by division, and in that way we have secured quite a large stock. It seems to bear our severest winters without any injury, and is a very pretty, and we hope will prove a useful plant. It is quite possible that some of our readers may be acquainted with it, or even have it in their possession, but we remember only having seen it once in America previous to our importation.

HATHAWAY TOMATO AT THE SOUTH.—C. C. L. Dill, of Pickensville, Alabama, says: "The Hathaway is the best Tomato for the South I have ever seen. They ripen from middle of May to 1st of June, and bear until frost. We have Tomatoes from seed (got of you) sown in box and transplanted in April, bearing since first of June, and had at our Christmas dinner as fine Tomatoes as ever grew, picked from vines in the garden that morning. In the middle of summer, during very dry, hot weather, growth and bearing is checked, but as autumn approaches, after the very first rain, there is a second growth, and a second crop of Tomatoes, much larger and finer than the first; and we then have abundance until mid-winter.



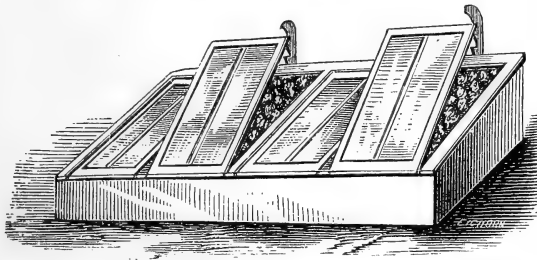
HOT-BEDS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT.

MR. VICK:—I was in hopes to find some instructions in the *FLORAL GUIDE*, which I have just received, for management of Hot-beds. Where can I obtain such information?—M. J. B., *Junction, Kansas*.

In our *FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDEN* will be found all needed information. As, however, we have every day inquiries similar to the above, we have thought it best to copy a page or two on the subject, so that all may have the facts without trouble or delay.

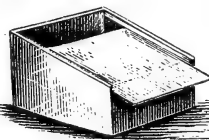
WHY SEEDS FAIL TO GROW.

If seeds are planted *too deep*, they either rot in the damp, cold earth, for the want of warmth necessary to their germination, or, after germination, perish before the tender shoots can reach the sun and air; and thus that which was designed for their nourishment proves their grave.



HOT-BED OR COLD-FRAME.

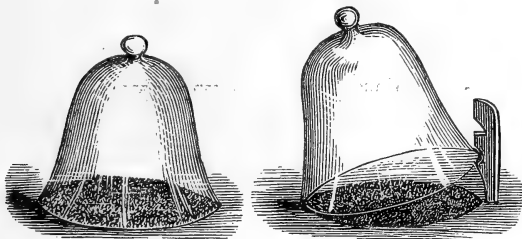
They may be placed in damp earth, and kept in a low temperature, and they will most likely rot, though some seeds will remain dormant a long time under these circumstances. But place them in moist earth, in a warm room, and they will commence growth at once. Indeed, if seeds become damp in a cold store-room they rot, while if the room is warm they germinate, and thus become ruined, so that seedsmen have to exercise great care in keeping their seeds well aired and dry. This accounts for the "sprouting" or "growing" of wheat in the sheaf, when the weather is warm and showery at harvest time, and shows why farmers are so anxious for good harvest weather, so that they may secure their grain perfectly dry. Another difficulty with a heavy soil is that it becomes hard on the surface, and this prevents the young plants from "coming up;" or, if, during showery weather, they happen to get above the surface, they become locked in, and make but little advancement, unless the cultivator is careful to keep the crust well broken; and in doing this the young plants are often destroyed. If *stiff*, the soil where fine seeds are sown should be made mellow, particularly on the surface, by the addition of sand and light mold.



BOX HAND-GLASS.



SQUARE HAND-GLASS.



SEEDS PROTECTED BY GLASS BELLS.

may escape these difficulties and flourish, but the proportion usually will be very small.

All of the foregoing cases show good reason for failure, but there is one cause which is not so apparent. The soil, we will suppose, is well prepared, fine as it can be made, and of that loamy or sandy character best fitted for small seeds. We will suppose, too, that the seeds were sown on the surface, with a little earth sifted over them, and that this was not done until the season was so far advanced as to furnish the warmth necessary to secure vegetation. Under these very



favorable circumstances many seeds will grow; and if the weather is both warm and showery, very few will fail. But if, as is very common at the season of the year when we sow our seeds, we have a succession of cold rain storms, many of the more tender kinds will perish. A night's



PROTECTED BY POTS.

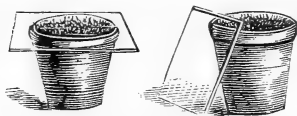
climate, suffer more than those that are more robust.

USEFULNESS OF HOT-BEDS AND COLD-FRAMES.

It is to overcome these evils that hot-beds are useful. By being protected at the sides and ends with boards, and covered with glass, they confine the moisture which arises from the earth, and thus the atmosphere is kept humid and the surface moist, and the plants are not

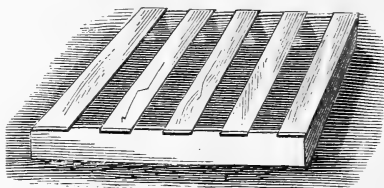
subjected to changes of temperature, as a uniform state can be maintained no matter what the weather may be. The bottom heat of the hot-bed warms the soil, and enables the grower to put in his seed early, and obtain plants of good size before the soil outside is warm enough to receive the seed. Care, however, is required to prevent scorching the young plants. In bright days, the heat is intense inside the frame, and unless air is freely given, or some course taken to obstruct the rays of the sun most likely a great portion

of the plants will be ruined. Some time since, I was called to examine a hot-bed, as the seeds planted did not grow, when I found they had been all burned up, except a few along the edges that were shaded by the sides and ends of the frame. When the sun gets pretty warm, give the glass a thin coat of whitewash. This gives a little shade, and, with some air during the middle of bright days, will make all safe.

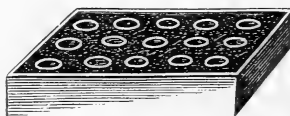


SEEDS GROWING IN POTS.

The *hot-bed* is made by forming a pile of horse manure with the straw used for bedding, or leaves, some three feet in height. Shake all together, so that straw and manure will be equally mixed. It may be sunk in the ground a foot or eighteen inches, or made on the surface. On this place about five inches of good mellow soil. Then set the frame and keep it closed until fermentation takes place and the soil is quite warm. It is better to wait a day or two after this, and then sow the seeds. The principal advantages of a hot-bed can be secured by what is called a *cold-frame*. This is simply a hot-bed frame, with sash, as shown in the engraving, placed upon a bed of fine, mellow earth, in some sheltered place in the garden. By the exclusion of air and the admission of sun, the earth becomes warm, and the moisture is confined, as in the hot-bed. After the frame is secured in its place, a couple of inches of fine earth should be placed inside, and the frame closed up for a day or two before the seeds are planted. As the cold-frame depends upon the sun for its warmth, it must not be started as soon as the hot-bed, and in this latitude the latter part of April is soon enough. Plants will then be large enough for transplanting to the open ground as soon as danger from frost is over, and, as a general thing, they will be hardier and better able to endure the shock of transplanting than if grown in a hot-bed. A frame of this kind any one can manage. Watering occasionally will be necessary; and air must be given on bright, warm days. Shade also is necessary. These frames, when so small as to be conveniently moved by the hand, are called *hand-glasses*. A simple frame or box, with a couple of lights of glass on the top, will answer a very good purpose, though when small it would be better to have the front of glass. A very good hand-glass is made of a square frame, with a light of glass at each side and on the top. These contrivances, though so



SEEDS PROTECTED BY LATH FRAME.

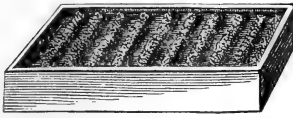


POTS OF SEED SUNK IN MOSS.



simple as to be made by any one handy with tools, are exceedingly useful, as they prevent the drying of the surface of the ground, and afford the plants shelter from sudden changes of the temperature, cold storms and frosty nights. The engravings show several forms of which they may be made. Seeds may be sown in the house in pots, &c., but the greatest difficulty is that in pots the soil dries very rapidly, and young plants are apt to suffer. A very good plan is to cover the pots with glass, as we have shown in the engraving, removing it occasionally for air, &c. Where very fine seeds are sown in pots, the watering, unless carefully done, generally results in great injury. A wet paper placed over the top of the pot will afford moisture enough for the germination of fine seeds. If pots are used it is well to sink them to the rim in a box of moss, or something of the kind, that will hold moisture, and prevent the drying of the earth in the pots. A shallow box may be used to advantage, sowing the seed carefully in narrow drills.

When these conveniences are not to be had, make a bed of light, mellow soil, in a sheltered situation in the garden; and as soon as the weather becomes settled, and the ground warm, sow the seeds, covering them with a little fine earth, and if very small sift it upon them. Some one has given as a rule that seeds should be covered twice the depth of their own diameter; that is, that a seed one-sixteenth of an inch through should be covered one-eighth of an inch. Perhaps that is as near correct as any general rule can be. If the weather should prove dry after sowing, it would be well to cover the beds of very small



SEEDS IN A BOX.

seeds with damp moss, or what is better, with evergreen boughs or boards, or something that will afford partial protection from the sun and wind. A very good plan is to nail lath to a frame, as shown in the engraving, leaving the open spaces about as wide as the lath. Seeds do not require light for their germination, and will grow quite as well in the dark as the light until they are above ground. Bell-glasses are convenient both for in-doors or garden use, only care must be given to afford plenty of air, especially on bright days, and shading may be necessary. An inverted flower pot answers almost as good a purpose, but when the young plants are up they will need light, which can be afforded for a few days, and until the plants are large, by elevating the pot, as shown in the engraving. Light and air should be furnished as soon as the plants are above ground, or they will become weak and pale. Of course, it is designed that plants from the *hot-bed*, *cold-frame* and *seed-bed* shall be transplanted to the border or beds where they are to flower, and these helps are intended mainly for *Tender* and *Half-Hardy Annuals*. The *Hardy Annuals* may be sown where they are to flower, though, with the exception of a few varieties difficult to transplant, it is best to sow all in a seed-bed.

All seeds of hardy and half-hardy Annuals, and Perennials, and, in fact, nearly all flower seeds, can be sown in the South in the autumn. The plants are thus enabled to make vigorous growth in the early spring, and become well matured before the heat of summer. The Perennials should be sown so early as to make a fair growth before winter sets in. Then they will flower the next summer. The Hardy Annuals generally do best sown rather late, so that the seed will remain in the ground and be ready to start at the first approach of spring.

THE COBCEA SCANDENS AS A PERENNIAL.

Our correspondents seem resolved that the Cobcea scandens shall be treated as a Perennial, and made to do duty in the house and the garden for almost unlimited time. We have a dozen letters on this subject. M. R. PATRICK, of Saratoga Springs, a view of whose Window Garden we published in the autumn number of the GUIDE for 1875, sends us the following:

JAMES VICK.—*Dear Sir:*—In reading over the first number of the GUIDE for 1876, I see you ask for information about keeping over Cobcea scandens during the winter. Why, this plant has been the chief beauty of our Window Garden for three years! The first we let die in the spring, and the last we got of you a year last October. After growing all winter in the window, we put it in the ground in May last, and there it grew to wonderful proportions, some of the ends growing to a length of 30 feet, and a perfect mass of blossoms. This fall we took it up, and put the roots in a large box, and cut away most all the stalk, and again placed it in the window the same as last year, so that we bid fair to have as handsome a Window Garden as when we sent you a picture of the other. It will grow winter and summer alike if cut back, and the beauty is in having so green a vine in winter when outside is cold and bare. Don't let your correspondent at Jonathan Creek, N. C., try to put it away, but let it grow through both seasons.—R. M. PATRICK, Saratoga, Jan'y. 24th, 1876.



GREEN HOUSE AND BEDDING PLANTS.

Many of our customers, when ordering seeds or bulbs, desire us to supply them with plants for the house, or for bedding out in the garden in the spring. When received before the weather is warm enough to plant out, they should be potted or planted in boxes and shaded. Give a good watering when planted, and then only as the soil becomes dry. If received at a suitable time for out-door planting, see that they are shaded for a few days. Where customers order plants by name, such as Roses, etc., we will endeavor to supply such as are called for, if we have them in stock. In case we are out of the variety named, we reserve the right to substitute, unless otherwise instructed. On the lines with the headings, in large type, will be found figures which refer to the page in *VICK'S FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDEN*, in which a full description of the plant mentioned will be found.

PLEASE TO READ THIS NOTICE BEFORE ORDERING.

The system of packing adopted is now so complete, that although we send out many packages annually to every State in the Union, it is rare to receive a complaint, while we receive hundreds of letters attesting satisfaction at the light, simple and safe method we practice, and the fine condition in which the plants arrive.

We begin shipping as soon as our Catalogue is issued, and by the precautions taken against frost, seldom have a case injured.

All Plants are sent by express, at the expense of the purchaser, unless specially ordered otherwise, and we earnestly advise our customers to have their plants always sent by express, as our system of light packing makes the charges comparatively low, and they almost invariably arrive in perfect order when thus sent.

We will send plants by mail as heretofore; but we would here impress upon our patrons the fact that no plant should ever be sent by mail to any point where an express office reaches, as larger and finer plants and more of them for the same amount, can be sent by express than by mail; for in all orders sent by express, extra plants are always included that are of more value than cost of expressage.

As it is much more difficult to pack a single plant so that it will carry safely, than a larger number, we trust our customers will order accordingly.

NO CHARGES FOR BOXES, BASKETS, OR PACKING.



ABUTILON BOULE DE NEIGE.

ABUTILON (Flowering Maple) 30 cts. each, except where noted.

ABUTILON *Mesopotamicum*, habit, drooping; flowers scarlet and yellow.

Mesopotamicum, var., variegated foliage.

Duc de Malakoff, flowers yellow; crimson veined.

Thompsonii, leaves mottled with yellow.

Venosum, flowers large; leaves deeply palmate.

Boule de Neige, flowers white. 50 cts. See illustration.

ACHYRANTHES, bedding plants, with ornamental foliage. 30 cts.

Aurea reticulata, leaves green and yellow.

Verschaffeltii, leaves carmine and pink.

Lindenii, leaves dark blood red.

AGERATUM, an old garden flower, blooming all summer, fine also for winter, and, or bouquets. 25 cts.

White Tom Thumb, 6 inches; flowers nearly white.

Blue Tom Thumb, 6 inches; flowers light blue.

Mexicanum var., leaves variegated green and white, flowers blue.

ARMERIA, THRIFT, or Sea Pink, an old-fashioned edging plant, four inches high, with pinkish heads of bloom. 25 cts. each; \$2.00 per doz. See illustration page 70 Floral Guide.

AMARYLLIS VALOTTA PURPUREA. Page 72. 75 cts.

ALOYSIA CITRIODORA (Lemon Verbena), light green fragrant leaves. 25 cts.

ANEMONE Jap. alba hardy autumn bloomer, flowers single white, with yellow center. 25 cts. Page 74.



ASTILBE JAPONICA (*Spiræa Japonica*), a fine, hardy, herbaceous plant, with clusters of white, feathery flowers. 30 cts.

BOUVARDIAS. Popular greenhouse plants, blooming all winter. 30 cts. each.

Bridal Wreath, white, tinged with pink.

Elegans, carmine.

Hogarth, light scarlet.

Leiantha, scarlet dark.

Davidsonii, white.

The Bride, pink.

BEGONIAS. Greenhouse plants, with handsome, glossy foliage, and a profusion of bright flowers. 30 cts, except where noted.

Fuchsoides, scarlet; winter-flowering.

Hybrida multiflora, rosy pink; winter-flowering.

Glaucophylla scandens, drooping var., with reddish flowers; especially fine for baskets. 50 cts.

Grandiflora rosea, light pink; winter-flowering.

Rex, ornamental foliage; large.

Sandersonii, scarlet; winter.

Weltoniensis, rich pink; stems red.

Weltoniensis alba, white.

CALLA. Page 73. Strong roots. 50 cts.

CANNA. Page 70. Several var. 25 cts.

CALYCANTHUS FLORIDUS, (*Sweet-scented Shrub*.) 30 cts. Hardy, flowers brown, with an odor of ripe fruit.

CALADIUM ESCULENTUM. See Flower and Vegetable Garden, page 70. 50 cts.

COCCOLOBA PLATYCLADA, curious, flat-stemmed, Fern-like plants, having no leaves. 30 cts.

CARNATIONS. Monthly. 30 cts.

Astoria, white, with red and yellow stripes.

Brightness, bright scarlet.

La Purite, carmine; winter-bloomer.

La Purite var., carmine and white; winter-bloomer.

President DeGraw, pure white; winter-bloomer.

Multiflora, white, sometimes striped with pink.

Vesta, pure white; new. 50 cts.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS (*Artemesia*.) 30 cts. each.

Japanese Fringed, several varieties.

Chinese, large flowering, several varieties.

Pompon, small flowering.

CENTAUREA. White leaved plants for edges of beds. 30 cts.

Gymnocarpa, leaves deeply cut.

Candida, leaves smooth.

COBÆA SCANDENS, fine climber; flowers blue. 50 cts.

CUPHEA PLATYCENTRA (*Cigar Plant*), tube of flowers scarlet; lip white and crimson; very free flowerer. 30 cts.

Hyssoifolia, flowers purplish lilac. 30 cts.

COLEUS. Popular ornamental leaved bedding plants. 25 cts.

Brilliant, bronzy-crimson, yellow edge.

Bouquet, yellow, well blotched with maroon

Berkleyii, chocolate-purple, netted green.

Beauty of Widmore, green-maroon and pink.

Chameleon, purple, rose and green.

Edith, crimson-golden border.

Golden Gem, crimson-bronze.

Hero, chocolate-maroon.

Holandi, crimson-maroon; yellow margin.

Kingii, yellow laced with purple.

Laciniata, canary marked with crimson.

Setting Sun, crimson-bronze; yellow edge.

Sambo, chocolate.

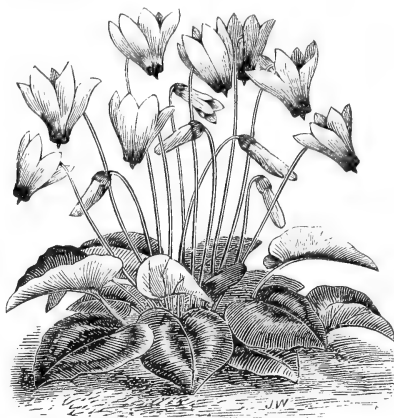
Vesta, chocolate, with yellow border.

COLEUS Verschaffeltii, velvet-crimson.

CYPERUS. A grass-like plant, surmounted at the top with a whorl of leaves; fine for aquariums. 50 cts.

Alternifolius, leaves green.

Alternifolius var., a variety striped with white. 75 cts.



CYCLAMEN PERSICUM.

CYCLAMEN PERSICUM, flowering in the winter. 50 cts. Page 94.

DAISY, white and red. 20 cts. each.

DAHLIAS. Green plants in May. See list in Floral Guide, No. 1. \$2.50 per dozen.

DRACÆNA TERMINALIS, or *Dragon Tree*, foliage dark crimson, marked with pink; fine for baskets, vases or house. 75 cts. to \$1.50.

ERYTHRINA CRISTA GALLI, or *Coral Plant*. 50 cts. Page 72.

ERIANTHUS RAVENNÆ, hardy ornamental grass; grows 8 to 10 feet high. \$3.00 per doz.; 30 cts. each.

EUONYMUS JAPONICUS AUREA, evergreen shrub; leaves dark glossy green with yellow blotch; fine for pots. 50 cts.

FEVERFEW (*Pyrethrum*), double white. 25 cents

Golden, fine for edgings. 25 cts.

FERNS. Small plants, 30 cts. each.

FARFUGIUM GRANDE, an ornamental leaved plant; leaves dark green, spotted with yellow; fine for ferneries. 50 cts.

FUCHSIAS. 30 cts. each, except where noted.

Amphion, dwarf; corolla plum; sepals crimson.

Arabella, corolla rose; sepals white.

Arabella Improved, corolla rose; sepals white.

Avalanche, Dbl., corolla violet; sepals crimson.

Avalanche, Dbl., Smith's, white; sepals crimson.

Bismarck, Dbl., corolla plum; sepals crimson.

Beauty of Sherwood, violet; sepals nearly white.

Brilliant, corolla scarlet; sepals white.

Carl Halt, corolla crimson, striped with white; winter-flowering.

Day Dream, Dbl., corolla maroon; sepals crimson.

Dolly Varden, Dbl., corolla violet; sepals crimson.

Empire, corolla white; sepals rosy crimson.

Gem, Dbl., violet; sepals crimson; winter-flowering.

Geo. Felton, Dbl., corolla violet-purple; very large.

Gipsy Girl, corolla delicate pink; sepals white.

Montrose, Dbl., white; sepals rose



Mrs. Marshall, corolla carmine; sepals white.
 Princess of Wales, Dbl., crimson-scarlet; sepals white.
 Speciosa, scarlet; sepals blush; winter-flowering.
 Sunray, violet and crimson; leaves beautifully variegated. 75 cts.
 Tower of London, Dbl., corolla violet-blue; sepals crimson; very large.
 Triumphans, Dbl., corolla violet; sepals crimson.
 Try Me, Oh, corolla very dark; sepals red; dwarf.
 Vanquer de Puebla, Dbl., white; sepals red.
GERANIUMS, 30 cts. each, except where noted.

SINGLE.

Bicolor, white, with salmon-rose center.
 Bridal Beauty, white and salmon.
 Col. Holden, (new), rosy-crimson. 40 cts.
 Dick's Seedling, white, with large salmon eye. 40 cts.
 Father Hyacinth, bright pink.
 Gen. Grant, scarlet.
 Helen Lindsey, carmine-pink.
 Jean Sisley, scarlet, white eye; extra. 40 cts.
 Madame Vaucher, white.
 Master Christine, dwarf pink; very fine bloomer; finest of the color. 40 cts.
 Mrs. Jas. Vick, white, with pink center. 40 cts.
 Queen of the West, light scarlet.
 Tom Thumb, scarlet; dwarf.
 White Tom Thumb, white.

SILVER-LEAF.—LEAVES WHITE-MARGINED.

Beaton Silver Noregay.
 Mountain of Snow.
 Bijou.

BRONZE.

Beauty of Calderdale, golden-bronze.
 Cloth of Gold, leaves yellow.
 Marshal McMahon, very vigorous; extra. 50 cts.
 Perilla, bronze.

TRICOLOR.

Geo. Goliath, golden tricolor.
 Mrs. Pollock, leaf yellow, scarlet and green.
 United States, silver tricolor.

DOUBLE.

Aline Sisley, semi-double; white.
 Asa Gray, fine salmon.
 Delight, cherry.
 Duc de Suez, scarlet-crimson.
 Glorie de Nancy, carmine.
 Jewell, (new), deep scarlet; extra fine. 50 cts.
 Mad. Lemoine, bright pink.
 Sapior Pompier, orange-scarlet.
 Triomphe de Lorraine, cherry-carmine; dwarf.
 Triomphe de Thumensil, rosy-carmine.
 Wm. Pfitzer, dwarf; scarlet.

SCENTED.

Dr. Livingston; Rose; Lemon; Balm; Nutmeg; Apple, 40 cts.; Oakleaf; Shrubland Pet; Skeleton Leaf.

IVY-LEAF.

Holly Wreath, leaves light green; broad white margin; flowers rose.
 L'Elegante, white margin, tinged with pink; flowers white.
 Lady Edith, crimson, tinged with purple; leaves dark.
GRASSES, several varieties; suitable for baskets. 25 cts. each.
 Pampas Grass. (See Floral Guide, p. 68.) 50 cts.

HELIOTROPES. 30 cts.

Brilliant, light violet.
 Corymbosa, lavender.
 Garibaldi, nearly white.
 Lady Cook, dark violet
 Little Marguerite, dark violet.

HOYA CARNOSA, (Wax Plant), a green house climber, with umbels of flesh-colored flowers. 50 cts.

HYDRANGEA HORTENSIS, an old-fashioned shrub, with large clusters of pink flowers. 50 cts.

Paniculata Grandiflora, hardy, with white flowers. 50 cts. to \$1.00.

IVY, German or Parlor. 30 cts.

JASMINE. 30 cts.

Jasminum Grandiflora, foliage fine; flowers white, and very fragrant; one of the best plants for the house for winter blooming.

KONIGA MARITIMA Var. (Variegated Sweet Alyssum), fine for baskets. 25 cts. each.

LANTANAS, free blooming; flowers small and in clusters. 30 cts.

Snowball, white.

Canary, yellow.

Marcella, lilac-rose, changing to yellow.

Lina Entiger, straw color; dwarf.

LINARIA CYMBALARIA (Kenilworth Ivy), an excellent basket or pot plant. 30 cts.

LIBONIA FLORIBUNDA, a neat shrub; flowers one inch in length; orange, scarlet and yellow; fine for the house in winter. 30 cts.

LOBELIAS. 30 cts.

Emperor William, deep blue.

New Double, dark blue; one of the neatest little pot plants that grow.

Miss Murphy, white.

Cobalt Blue, blue.



MESEMBRYANTHEMUM VARIEGATUM.

MESEMBRYANTHEMUM VARIEGATUM, Variegated Ice Plant, valuable or baskets, vases, or for edging of beds; endures the hot sun very well. 30 cts.

OTHONNA CRASSIFOLIA, a succulent plant, resembling the Sedums; one of the best basket plants we have; also fine for carpeting; flowers yellow. 30 cts. See engraving p. 78.

OLEANDER, Dbl. Pink. 50 cts.

PANSIES. A fine collection. 15 cts. each; \$1.50 per dozen.

PILEA SERPÆFOLIA, (Artillery Plant), leaves frond-like; always in flower; fine for baskets. 25 cts.

PELARGONIUM or FANCY GERANIUM, a dozen or more sorts. 30 cts. each.

PETUNIAS. Single 15 cts. each; \$1.50 per dozen. Double 30 cts. each; \$3.00 per doz.



PHLOX, Perennial. 25 cts. each; \$2.50 per dozen.
Adelina Patti, dwarf; rosy-white, with crimson eye.
Annie, white, with rose eye.
Bessie Darling, rosy-white, with purple eye.
Countess de Chambour, white; pale pink eye.
Duchess of Sutherland, pure white; early.
Elizabeth, white, with carmine eye.
La Gracieuse, light purple striped.
Modesty, purple, with carmine eye.
Mad. Oriel Duriez, white, with large rose eye.
Mad. Rendatler, blush, with crimson eye.
Napoleon, striped.
Nightingale, rosy-purple, with red eye.
Paul de Segur, white, with pink eye.
Prince Christian, bright crimson; large flower.
Rose of Castile, red.
Souv. de la Motte, lilac, with large eye.
Von Moltke, purplish-lilac.
Virgo Maria, pure white; late.



OTTHONNA CRASSIFOLIA.

POMEGRANATE, Dwarf, (Jas. Vick), flowering in the fall and when plants are quite small; color orange-scarlet. 30 cts. each.
PRIMROSE, Dbl. Chinese, fine winter blooming plants. \$1.00 each.
 Dbl. White.
 Dbl. Pink.
PYLOGENE SUAVIS, a beautiful climber, with small, neat foliage; excellent for screens or pillars in the summer, and very useful in winter for the house, enduring the hot dry atmosphere fully as well as the English Ivy. 50 cts. each.

RICHARDIA ALBA MACULATA, (Spotted Calla.) 50 cts. each.

MONTHLY ROSES, Winter-flowering. 40 cts. Blooming all summer, but requiring protection the winter north of Philadelphia.

- c. China; n. Noisette; b. Bourbon; t. Tea.
- c. Agrippina, bright crimson.
- n. Aimee Vibert, pure white, blooming in clusters; nearly hardy here.
- c. Archduke Charles, rose.
- t. Bella, white; winter bloomer.
- t. Bon Silene, carmine, tinted with salmon; winter bloomer.
- t. Caroline Cook, blush.
- t. Caroline, rosy flesh.
- n. Cloth of Gold, yellow.
- b. Compte Bobrinski, crimson.
- c. Eugene Beauharnais, amaranth.
- t. Duchesse de Brabant, light carmine, tinged with violet; winter bloomer.
- t. Gloire de Dijon, cream, shaded flesh.
- b. Hermosa, pink.
- c. Imperatrice Eugenie, rose, shaded with salmon.
- t. Isabella Sprunt, canary yellow; winter bloomer.
- t. Jean d'Or, yellow; quite hardy.
- n. Jeanne d'Arc, white, center flesh.
- t. Lady Warrender, white.
- c. Louis Phillippe, dark crimson.
- n. Lamarque, white, shading to lemon.
- t. La Pactole, pale lemon.
- b. Mrs. Bosanquet, pale flesh; large and double; an excellent house rose.
- t. Mad. Isa Imbert, yellowish-salmon.
- n. Marechal Niel, yellow, tea-scented.
- c. Mad. Bureau, blush, changing to white.
- b. Peerless, crimson; hardy.
- b. Pierre de St. Cyr, rosy-carmine; hardy.
- t. Pauline La Bonte, creamy flesh.
- b. Phoenix, rosy-purple; hardy.
- c. Prest. d' Olbecque, rosy-crimson.
- c. Purple Crown, purplish-crimson; hardy.
- b. Queen of the Bourbons, carmine and rose.
- t. Safrano, saffron-yellow, winter bloomer.
- c. Sanguinea, deep crimson.
- b. Souv. de la Malmaison, pale flesh; large.
- t. Gen. Tartas, deep rose, shaded salmon.
- n. Washington, white cluster.
- n. Woodland Marguerite, white.

HYBRID PERPETUAL ROSES. 40 cts. each. Hardy, blooming profusely in June, and occasionally through the summer.

- Achille Gonod, clear, bright rose.
- Alexandrine Bachmeteff, deep, brilliant rose.
- Alphonse Belin, clear brilliant red.
- Amelia Halpin, dark pink.
- Belle Normandie, light rose; large and fine.
- Baron Provost, deep rose; very large and full.
- Caroline de Sansal, delicate blush.
- Chas. Verdier, pink.
- Doctor Marx, rosy-carmine; full.
- Giant of Battles, crimson.
- Gen. Jacqueminot, crimson-scarlet; fine bloomer.
- Gen. Washington, crimson-scarlet; fine.
- Jules Margottin, carmine-purple.
- La France, silvery white, back of petals rose; extra.
- La Reine, deep rosy-lilac; blooms all summer.
- Leopold Hausburg, carmine, shaded with purple.
- Louise d'Arzens, white, tinged with blush; fine.
- Louis Bonaparte, pink.



HYBRID PERPETUAL ROSES.

Lord Macauley, bright crimson; fine shape.
 L'Enfant du Mont Carmel, purplish-red.
 Louis Van Houtte, reddish-scarlet; very large.
 Madame Place, pinkish-red.
 Madame Margottin, red.
 Madame Plantier, (Hyb. China), summer bloomer; pure white.
 Marechal Souchet, reddish-crimson.
 Marechal Forey, dark red.
 Mrs. Elliott, rosy-purple.
 Pius IX, deep rose.
 President Lincoln, dark red.
 Prince Albert, deep rose.
 Souv. du Comte de Cavour, bright crimson, shaded with black.
 Sydonie, light pink.

CLIMBING ROSES.—Hardy. 40 cts. each, except where noted.

Baltimore Belle, pale blush; nearly white.
 Gem of the Prairies, carmine-crimson. 50 cts.
 Queen of the Prairies, rosy-red.
 Triumphant, blush white.

MOSS ROSES. 60 cts. each. Hardy.

Alice Leroy, rosy-lilac.
 Countess of Murinais, pure white.
 Madame Alboni, clear pink, changing to purple.
 Mrs. Wood, bright rose; very mossy.
 Princess Adelaide, pink.
 Salet, bright rosy-red.
 White Perpetual, white.

SALVIA. 30 cts. each.

Splendens, scarlet.
 Splendens alba, white.
 Patens, bright blue.

SMILAX. A popular and well-known climber; nice young plants, 30 cts. each.

SOLANUM JASMINOIDES, a fine climber for baskets, or for the house in winter; flowers white, in clusters. 30 cts. each.

TRADESCANTIA, (Wandering Jew), fine for baskets or for growing in water in vases. 25 cts. each.

Vulgaris, leaves green.

Zebrina, leaves dark striped.

Repens Vittata, green, striped with white.

VERONICA, a fine plant for baskets or pots; flowers blue. 30 cts. each.

VINCA (Periwinkle), a drooping plant; much used in vases or baskets; leaves beautifully variegated. 30 cts. each.

VERBENAS. We have a fine stock of strong, healthy plants. With names, \$1.50 per doz., \$10.00 per hundred; without names, \$1.00 per doz., \$7.00 per hundred.

Alena, pink shaded.
 Ariel, lavender, white eye.
 Black Hawk, maroon.
 Bird of Paradise, scarlet, white eye.
 Bismarck, maroon, white eye.
 Baron Norton, purple.
 Caroline, pink and white striped.
 Colossus, vermilion.
 Crusader, bright red.
 Decorator, bright scarlet.
 Diana, blush-shaded pink.
 Foxhunter, scarlet.
 Ida, large, rose white eye.
 Lilacena, lilac-mottled blue.
 Lady Binning, rosy-scarlet shaded.
 Miss Caroline, violet-purple.
 Rosamond, carmine, white eye.
 Reginald, velvety-purple.
 Snowdrift, pure white.
 Sparkler, scarlet, white eye.
 Scarlet Circle, light scarlet, white eye.
 Spot, violet-purple, white eye.
 Ultramarine, fine blue.
 William Young, crimson.
 William Dean, blue, white eye.
 White Fawn, white.
 White Beauty, pure white.

VIOLETS. These lovely flowers are too well known to need any description. 30 cents each.

Double White.

Double Dark Blue or English.

Neapolitan, Dbl., light blue.

Maria Louise, Dbl., light blue, but darker than the above; all very fragrant.

OMISSIONS.

DRACÆNA INDIVISA, very narrow green leaves; fine for centers of baskets and vases. 75 cts.

DRACÆNA FERRÆ, dark bronzy-green leaves; very striking. 75 cts.

AMOMUM MELEQUETTA (Cardamom), an interesting Greenhouse plant, from which we get the Cardamom Seed of Commerce; leaves broad, light green, and delightfully fragrant; new and rare. 75 cts. each.

PLANTS IN COLLECTIONS AT REDUCED RATES.

12 Roses, Monthly.	\$4.00 per doz.	\$4.00	2 Feverfews . . . . .	.25 each.	.50
6 " Hybrid Perpetual.	" "	2.00	4 Lantanas . . . . .	.25 "	1.00
6 " Climbing . . . . .	.40 each.	.80	6 Coleus	2.50 per doz.	1.25
6 Heliotropes, in sorts.	3.00 per doz.	1.50	4 Lobelias . . . . .	.25 each.	1.00
6 Fuchsias, in sorts.	3.00 "	1.50	3 Cannas . . . . .	.25 "	.75
18 Geraniums, in sorts.	3.00 "	4.50	6 Carnations, Monthly and Pinks	3.00 per doz.	1.50
6 Chrysanthemums, in sorts.	3.00 "	1.50	36 Verbenas	1.00 "	3.00
6 Begonias, in sorts.	3.00 "	1.50	6 Violets	3.00 "	1.50
2 Abutilons, in sorts. . . . .	.25 each.	.50	4 Ageratum . . . . .	.25 each.	1.00
2 Lemon Verbenas . . . . .	.25 "	.50	3 Bouvardias . . . . .	.25 "	.75
1 Dracæna Terminalis	" "	1.25	4 Dahlias . . . . .	.25 "	1.00
3 Salvias . . . . .	.25 "	.75			
6 Petunias, Single	1.50 per doz.	.75			
6 Pansies	1.50 "	.76			

\$35.05

THIS COLLECTION WILL BE FURNISHED FOR \$25.00, OUR SELECTION.

Plants from the above coll., to the amount of \$20.00, for \$15.00.

" " " \$14.00, " \$10.00.

" " " \$7.00, " \$5.00.

At these prices we deliver to the Express Co. Purchasers to pay the Express charges.



THE "EXCELSIOR" LAWN MOWER.

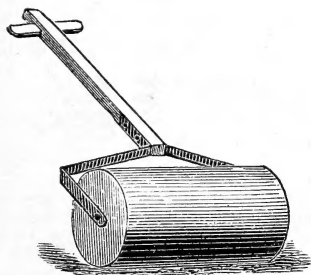
After a careful examination, and witnessing several trials, I am led to believe that the New "Excelsior" Lawn Mower is the best Mower for all work that I have seen. It is very simple in construction, and is not likely to get out of order with proper use, and for style of finish and Mechanical construction do not think it is excelled by any in the market.

It has an open balance wiper—with steel knives—the only practical means of securing strength and ease of draft, and Patent Adjustable Wrought Iron handle attached to each side of the Machine.

PRICES.

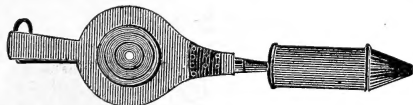
No. 1, Width of Cut 9 inches,	\$14.00
No. 2, Width of Cut 12 inches,	18.00
No. 3, Width of Cut 15 inches,	22.00
No. 4, Width of Cut 18 inches,	26.00

GARDEN REQUISITES.



LAWN ROLLER.

Made of cement and gravel, heavily bound with iron. Weight about 400 lbs; length, 24 inches; diameter, 15 inches. Price, \$12.00



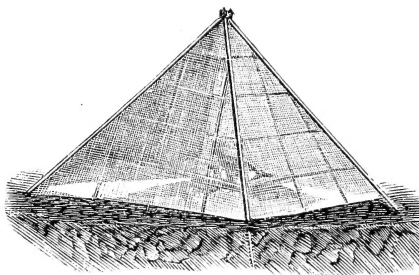
THE AMEN FUMIGATOR

Is one of the best instruments of the kind we have ever seen, just the thing to smoke plants with. Price, \$1.50;



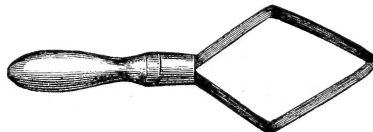
SYRINGES.

No. 0, unpolished, 12½ inch barrel, spray rose . .	\$ 2.50
No. 1, 12½ inch barrel " " " " " "	3.50
No. 2, 13½ " " same as engraving	4.75
No. 3, 18 " " " " " " " " " "	6.75
No. 5, 18 " " Improved Rose	7.50
No. 7, Knuckle Joint	10.00



PLANT PROTECTOR.

Bates' Plant Protector, a sure protection to young vines against insects, per dozen, 1 50
By mail, postpaid, " " " " " " " " " " 2 00



NOYES' HAND WEEDER.

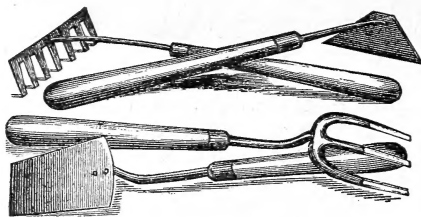
Noyes' Hand Weeder, 35 cents; by mail, prepaid, .45



EXCELSIOR WEEDER.

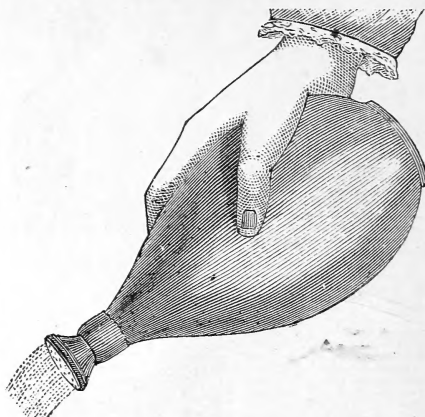
The Excelsior Weeder 30 cents each; by mail, prepaid, 40 cents each.

Hedge Shears, 8 inches, \$2.00; 9 in., \$2.50; 10 inches, by Express, not prepaid, 3.00



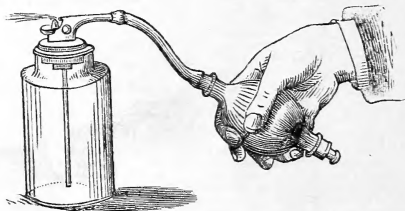
LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S GARDEN TOOLS.

Ladies' and Children's Garden Tools, useful, handy, and small. Put up in neat boxes, 11 in. long by 3 wide. No. 1, extra polish, \$1.25; by mail prepaid 1.50
 No. 2, painted and polished, \$1.00 . . . prepaid 1.25
 No. 3 is a set of larger tools, with a common-sized trowel in place of spade; size of box 12½ in. long, 4¾ in. wide. \$1.50. By mail, prepaid 1.75
 Daisy Rakes, 22 teeth. By Express, not prepaid 5.00
 Edging Knife . . . By mail, prepaid 1.50
 Hand Forks, American. By mail, prepaid, 25, 35 and .65
 Hand Pruning Shears . . . By mail, prepaid 1.75
 Garden Rakes . . . By Express, not prepaid, \$1.15 to 1.30
 Garden Lines, by mail prepaid, 60 ft. 40 cts.; 120 ft. .75
 Gishurst's Insect Compound. By mail, prepaid 1.25
 Guano, by mail, prepaid, 30 cts. per lb.; 5 lbs., not pd. .50
 Grafting Wax, ¼ lb., 15 cent.; ½ lb., 25 cents; 1 lb., 60 cents; by mail, prepaid. Not prepaid per lb. .40
 Tobacco Soap, per lb. pkge., 75 cts. By mail, pd. 1.00
 " " per ½ lb., 40 cts. " " .50
 " " ¼ lb., 25 cts. " " .70
 " " ¼ lb., 25 cts. " " .40
 Wolf's Indelible Ink Pencils, for writing on wooden labels, 25 cents . . . By mail, prepaid .30
 Grape Scissors, English, \$1.50 . . . 1.60
 Trowels, from 30 to 50 cents . . . 40 to 70
 Flower Gatherers, cuts and holds, \$2.50. " " 2.75



ELASTIC PLANT-SPRINKLER

Is made with a flat bottom, and brass, perforated, detachable top. Is valuable for Window Gardening, Eouquet Sprinkling, Dampening Clothes, &c. Price, by mail, prepaid, \$1.50.



VAPORIZER.

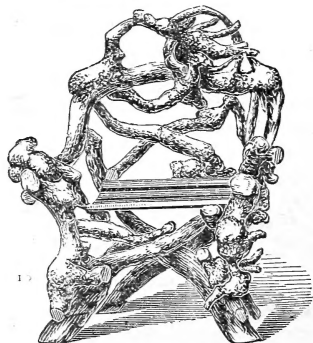
This is the best article made for spraying cut flowers and applying Whale Oil Soap and other compounds for the destruction of insects on plants. Price \$1.50 by mail, prepaid.



FLORAL ATOMIZER.

The Floral Atomizer is one of the cheapest Atomizers for destroying insects on Plants by the application of Whale Oil Soap and other compounds. The liquid is forced out in fine spray. Price by mail, prepaid \$1.00.

Catalogue of Garden Requisites, Seats, Chairs, and Ornamental Work, just printed, and will be sent free to all who wish a copy.



No. 10, Chair, size of an office chair . . . \$9.00
 No. 5, 9 inch bowl, \$1.50; 11 inch, \$2.00; 12 inch . . . 2.50
 No. 4, 3 sizes, 2 ft. 4 in., 1 ft. 11 in., and 1 ft. 7 in. high, oblong vases, 23, 18 and 16 in. long, \$7.00, \$6.00 & 4.50